THURSDAY
February 12, 2026

BENGALURU
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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 36

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

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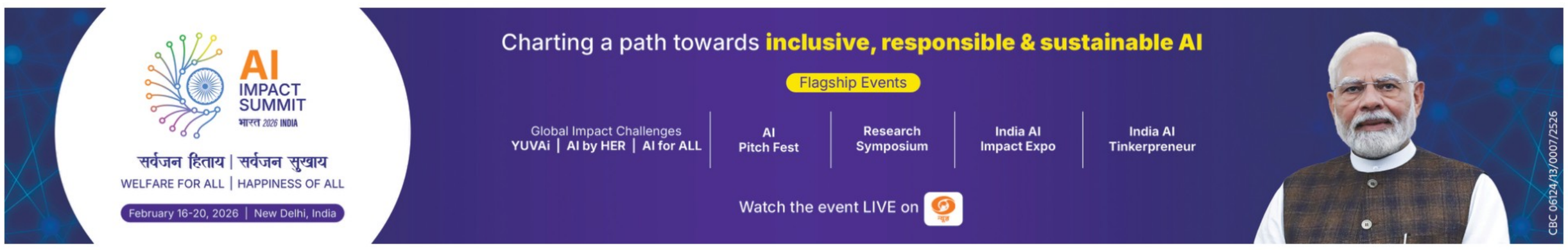
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SC seeks clarity from NIA on invoking UAPA

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No reduction in States' shares, says Nirmala

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PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION

Lula to visit India with 260 Brazilian firms

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Centre plans guidelines for books by defence personnel

Defence Ministry held a meeting to frame them for both serving and retired personnel, says official; to lay down a framework to be followed before any manuscript is cleared for publication

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Amid the controversy surrounding the unpublished memoir *Four Stars of Destiny*, of former Army chief General M.M. Naravane ((retd), the Defence Ministry is working on detailed guidelines for serving and retired armed forces personnel who wish to publish books in future.

The proposed guidelines will spell out the process to be followed before any manuscript is cleared for publication.

A senior defence official confirmed that a meeting was held recently to frame a new set of rules, during which a detailed presentation was made. The upcoming framework is expected to incorporate provisions of existing service rules as well as the Official Secrets Act (OSA).

At present, there is no single consolidated law specifically governing book-writing by retired Army officers. Instead, different legal and service frameworks apply to serving personnel and retirees. In both cases, national security and protection of classified information remain the primary red lines.

There are no specific service rules barring exservicemen or retired Army officers from authoring or publishing books. However, the freedom operates within a legal grey area. The OSA continues to apply for life, even after retirement, making it a criminal offence to disclose classified information, sensitive operational details, or any material prejudicial to national security.

While retired personnel are no longer governed by the Army Act or Army rules in matters of publication, statutory laws remain applicable. If a manuscript contains operational or sensitive details, authors are expected to submit it to the Ministry for clearance. The relevant department then verifies and cross-checks the content before granting approval.

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FIR OVER MEMOIR
» PAGE 10

Fresh framework

The upcoming guidelines are expected to incorporate provisions of existing service rules as well as the Official Secrets Act (OSA)

- At present, there is no single **consolidated law** specifically governing book-writing by retired Army officers
- The OSA makes **disclosure of classified information**, sensitive operational details, or any material prejudicial to national security a criminal offence
- The Act continues to apply to an officer for life, **even after retirement**

Tricky words: LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with a copy of the unpublished memoir of former Army chief M.M. Naravane. PTI

U.S. drops references added to statement on deal with India

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The U.S. on Wednesday backtracked on changes it made to the India-U.S. joint statement and the White House factsheet on the India-U.S. framework for the interim agreement on trade, removing references to 'pulses', 'agricultural products', 'digital service tax' and Indian 'commitments' on investing $500 billion.

The references, which were not in the original joint statement, had led to questions being raised in New Delhi.

Opposition leaders asked the government to clarify its position after officials had categorically said that sensitive agricultural items were not included in the deal and that India had "intended" but not given a binding commitment to investing $500 billion in American products over a period of five years. "India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products," the corrected factsheet read.

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Taking back

The references had raised concerns after not being present in the original **India-U.S. joint statement**

Dropped references:

- Pulses
- Agricultural products
- Digital service tax
- 'Commitments' on investing **$500 billion**

NEARBY

Online scrutiny system for revenue courts

BENGALURU
Karnataka, which showed the way in reducing pending revenue cases, has now embarked on an initiative to streamline the functioning of revenue courts. » PAGE 6

'Stop raising issue of leadership'

BENGALURU
Visibly irritated by repeated questions about a possible leadership change, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asked the media to stop raising the issue repeatedly. » PAGE 6

Couple stabbed to death by son

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A retired Navy Captain and his dentist wife were stabbed to death allegedly by their son at their residence in east Bengaluru on Wednesday morning.

The incident occurred around 7.30 a.m. in Adarsha Vista Apartments, Vignan Nagar, in HAL Police Station limits. The deceased have been identified as Naveen Chandra Bhat, 60, a retired Navy Captain, and his wife Shyamala Bhat, 55, a dental surgeon.

According to police, the couple's son, Rohan Chandra Bhat, 33, a software engineer allegedly attacked both his parents with a knife following a domestic dispute. The injured couple were rushed to Manipal Hospital for treatment, where doctors declared them dead around 8.15 a.m.

Based on the complaint lodged by Madhavi Nair, a resident of Adarsha Vista Apartments and a doctor at Manipal Hospital, the HAL Police have registered a murder case against Rohan.

The accused has been arrested and will be produced before the jurisdictional court.

The bodies have been kept at the mortuary of Bowring Hospital. Police said the post-mortem examination will be conducted after the couple's daughter, who is travelling from the U.S., arrives.

High turnout expected as Bangladesh votes today

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

A day before its first polls since the 2024 uprising, Bangladesh's Election Commission said on Wednesday that it expected a strong voter turnout.

Many young people had been effectively deprived of the freedom to vote for their choice during ousted Premier Sheikh Hasina's iron-fisted rule, commission official Abul Fazal Muhammad Sanaullah told presspersons.

"We see euphoria among the people," he said ahead of Thursday's vote.

SABOTAGE ALLEGATION

» PAGE 14

Snowscape adventure

Winding down: Tourists ride snow scooters through a hilly road in Tangmarg, Baramulla, on Wednesday after fresh snowfall. IMRAN NISSAR

Tamil Brahmi inscriptions discovered in Egypt shed light on ancient trade links

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

A path-breaking finding has shed new light on trade links between ancient Tamilagam, other parts of India, and the Roman Empire. Two researchers have identified close to 30 inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi, Prakrit and Sanskrit at tombs in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. These inscriptions are said to belong to the period between the 1st and 3rd Centuries CE

The inscriptions were identified during a study in 2024 and 2025 by Charlotte Schmid, Professor at the French School of Asian Studies (EFEO) in Paris, and Ingo Strauch, Professor at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. The team documented them across six tombs in the Theban Necropolis. They followed in the footsteps of French scholar Jules Baillet, who surveyed the Valley of the Kings in 1926 and published more than 2,000 Greek graffiti marks.

A Tamil Brahmi inscription with the name *Cikai Koṟṟaṉ* in one of the tombs at the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Presenting their findings in a paper titled "*From the Valley of the Kings to India: Indian Inscriptions in Egypt*" at the ongoing International Conference on Tamil Epigraphy, the scholars said the individuals who made these inscriptions came from the north-western, western and southern regions of the Indian subcontinent, with those from the latter forming the majority.

Visitors had left brief inscriptions and graffiti by carving their names on the walls of corridors and rooms, marking their presence in the tombs, the researchers said, adding that these sets of inscriptions appear inside the tombs alongside larger bodies of graffiti in other languages, primarily Greek.

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Interest of institutional lenders can't outweigh right of owner over stolen gold ornaments: Karnataka HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The interests of an institutional lender, however legitimate in the civil sphere, cannot outweigh the rights of the victims of crime who have lost their pledged gold ornaments, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

The court made the observations while dismissing a petition filed by IIFL Finance Ltd., which had questioned a notice issued by the Bengaluru city police asking the petitioner-company to produce the gold ornaments pledged by

a woman, who was working with a private bank.

Stolen and pledged

The police had registered a case on a complaint lodged by Karur Vysya Bank, Kengeri branch, alleging that Ashwini, who was working as an assistant manager in the branch, had stolen some of the gold ornaments, pledged by the bank's customers, by replacing them with duplicate ornaments. The bank had complained that over 3 kg of pledged gold ornaments were allegedly stolen by her.

During the probe, the police came to know that she and her husband had taken a gold loan from IIFL by pledging these allegedly stolen gold ornaments. The IIFL had given around ₹85 lakh to the couple based on the pledged gold.

Finding no merit in IIFL's attempt to characterise itself solely as a "secured creditor" and thereby claim immunity from criminal investigation, the court said the criminal law does not recognise contractual status as a shield against investigation.

"The moment property in possession is alleged to be stolen, the nature of the possession ceases to be purely civil or commercial and becomes subject to criminal scrutiny," the court observed.

CONTINUED ON
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Gold-standard Bumrah looks to add sheen

The premier pacer, returning after a break, will want to get back into competition mode as early as possible; the 32-year-old, hoping to leave an imprint on the 2026 T20 World Cup, will target the next three fixtures to get his game in order

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik
NEW DELHI

As India readied for their first practice session at the Arun Jaitley Stadium ahead of the T20 World Cup clash against Namibia on Thursday, all eyes were understandably on Jasprit Bumrah, who had missed the opener against the USA in Mumbai on Saturday on account of illness.

Leading into Tuesday night's stint, Bumrah hadn't bowled for more than a week; his last bowl competitively was eminently forgettable as he went for 58 runs off his four overs against New Zealand, the most runs he has conceded in his 87 T20I appearances.

Bumrah took a few tentative steps before breaking into an easily recognisable stutter-start jog. After more stretches which eventually convinced him that he had loosened up enough to hit the bowling crease, he bowled for the better part of 30 minutes with the intensity that one has come to expect off him, an intensity on which he makes no compromises even in a training session.

It wasn't Bumrah at his absolute best. Like they have for some time now, the yorkers refused to do his bidding, often ending up as full tosses that were put away with impunity by Tilak Varma. There were a couple of mean bouncers and he tested the outside edge of Suryakumar Yadav more than once. The rhythm didn't come flooding back, but the signs were encouraging.

Bumrah will be better off with a few overs in a competitive setting, which is precisely what will greet him on Thursday night.

Around his back injuries which have now become a constant if singularly unwelcome companion, or more likely because of it, India have handled their most valuable cricketing treasure with care and caution.

A flare-up of the back injury that prevented him from bowling in the final innings of the five-Test series in Australia in January last year has compelled the think-tank to manage his workload with greater diligence than it would have in any case. The injury forced him to miss the Champions Trophy in Dubai in February-March as well as the early part of IPL 2025.

Because of the imperativeness of making sure that he is rested enough, his captaincy credentials were overlooked once Rohit Sharma retired from Test cricket.

Wrapped in cotton wool

Bumrah played in only three of five Tests in England last summer in Shubman Gill's first series as India's red-ball skipper. He did subsequently feature in all four of the home Tests, against the West Indies and South Africa, but even in white-ball cricket, India have been loath to use Bumrah liberally.

The 32-year-old hasn't featured in a single One-Day International since the final of the 50-over World Cup more than two and a quarter years ago, while even his T20I appearances have been sporadic.

Bumrah figured in only 17 of the 41 T20 games India played between the two World Cups; he is also the lone exception to the Board of Control for Cricket in India diktat necessitating players to represent their state (Gujarat, in his case) in domestic cricket when not consumed by national duty.

India need Bumrah to be at his incisive best. He was forced to miss the opening T20 World Cup game against the USA through illness, bringing Siraj immediately into play

Evidently, Bumrah is every bit worth the 'special' treatment simply because of how special he is, and how much he brings to the table not just as the best all-format pacer of his generation but as a seasoned, wise and intelligent head also willing to play the role of guide and mentor without hesitation or prodding.

That being said, Bumrah hasn't been at his consistently most potent or threatening in his now-on, mostly-off appearances since the final of the last T20 World Cup in June 2024. Thrice in his last 15 bowls alone, he has gone at more than 11 runs per over as opposed to just four times in his previous 69 innings. At the Asia Cup in Dubai in September, he was taken apart by Sahibzada Farhan, the Pakistan opener who smacked him for sixes for fun during an Indian experiment that saw Bumrah bowl three overs in the PowerPlay for the first time since 2017.

When it comes to others, an economy of 11-plus three times in 15 innings is hardly worth a mention, but Bumrah clearly isn't 'others'. Great champions are often victims of their own standards; two of those 11-plus efforts came in his last six visits to the bowling crease. He finished with none for 45 against South Africa in Mullanpur in December and none for 58 in his last T20I, against New Zealand in Thiruvananthapuram on January 31.

These matches, as well as all others during India's final two series before the World Cup, were played on absolute belters and there was no shame in going the distance. But around and between these two matches, he also had two for 17 off three overs in Cuttack, two for 17 off four in Ahmedabad and three for 17, also off four in Guwahati. Safe to presume then that 17 is Bumrah's golden number?

The pitches at this World Cup have been anything but shirtfronts. There appears a greater balance between bat and ball than in bilateral faceoffs and 12 matches in the first four days produced a solitary score of more than 200. In any case, traditionally, matches have been lower-scoring in multi-team tournaments compared to bilateral showdowns, which isn't the worst development at a time when the race to 300 is getting more and more frenzied.

Against this backdrop, India need Bumrah to be at his incisive best over the next three and a half weeks. He was forced to miss the opening T20 World Cup game against the USA through illness, bringing Mohammed Siraj immediately into play on his return to the T20I side after a year and a half in the wilderness.

Siraj's belated inclusion stemmed from an unfortunate knee injury that ended Harshit Rana's World Cup even before it started. Even though he returned his second best T20I figures of three for 29 against the Americans, the Hyderabadi will in all likelihood warm the bench on Thursday when India continue their campaign against Namibia.

Bumrah will want to get into the competition as quickly as possible. He was the engine room on whom Rohit Sharma's side rode piggyback in the Americas nearly 20 months ago; Bumrah was incisive, parsimonious, intelligent, always threatening and rose to the occasion when the team needed him most.

It was his dismissal of Mohammad Rizwan that scuttled Pakistan's chase of 120 on a decidedly dodgy New York surface. Pakistan were 80 for three after 14 overs when Rizwan was bowled swinging across the line. From then on, Babar Azam's side added just 33 runs in 35 deliveries to finish on 113 for seven to go down by six runs.

Typically, in keeping with his status as a genius, Bumrah saved his best for last. Through Heinrich Klaasen, South Africa were running away with the final. A 24-run 15th over from Axar Patel left the Proteas needing 30 from as many deliveries with six wickets in hand when, in a final throw of the dice, Rohit turned to his hitman.

Bumrah didn't provide a breakthrough, but he did provide a semblance of control by going for just four. It was still South Africa's game to win at 26 off 24 when Klaasen fell to Hardik Pandya. Rohit chose to bowl Bumrah out in the 18th over, knowing that the game was on a razor's edge and it was imperative to seize the moment. Bumrah responded like only he can - a mere two runs and the wicket of Marco Jansen meant South Africa had suddenly gone from the hunter to the hunted. Having produced a peach with the new ball to pluck out Reeza Hendricks' off-stump in his first over, Bumrah's final burst of 2-0-6-1 gave him match figures of 4-0-18-2. Bumrah was rewarded for his sustained brilliance throughout the competition with the Player-of-the-Tournament award. Arshdeep Singh and Afghanistan's Fazalhaq Farooqi topped the wicket-takers' chart with 17 wickets apiece. Bumrah had the joint second most scalps, alongside Anrich Nortje, but his 15 wickets combined with an economy rate of 4.17 - no one else with more than 10 wickets went at less than 5.74 an over - clearly singled him out as the most influential performer across the length of the World Cup.

Determined for more

As India seek to rewrite history by becoming the first team to win the World Cup thrice, the first side to successfully defend the trophy and the first outfit to triumph on home soil, it is a no-brainer that Suryakumar and the remaining 13 squad members will want Bumrah to be at his marauding best.

Bumrah has shown himself to be capable of lifting his already remarkable game to a higher level at continental and global tournaments. One isn't sure what the future holds for him, but in front of adoring thousands on his home patch, he will be determined to leave his imprint on the World Cup again.

Despite his and his colleagues' best efforts, India stumbled at the final hurdle in the 50-over World Cup. Bumrah will leave no stone unturned in trying to ensure that there is no unwelcome encore while being well aware that the path to the knockouts itself is fraught with pesky obstacles.

With no disrespect, Namibia are the perfect launchpad for Bumrah ahead of the marquee Sunday showdown against Pakistan in Colombo, just recently greenlit by the Pakistan government. If the formbook holds and India maintain their wonderful T20 run, they should find themselves in the Super Eights where the quality of their opponents will be consistently higher than what they will encounter in Group A.

Bumrah will target the next three fixtures to get his game in order. Of late, he hasn't been nailing his yorkers with the same regularity as in the past and even at nets on Tuesday, several of them manifested themselves in low to not-so-low full tosses.

To erase that anomaly will be high on his priority list because Bumrah is a proud perfectionist who hates letting himself, his team and his legion of fans down, in that order.

THE GIST

- Bumrah figured in only 17 of the 41 T20 games India played between the two World Cups
- In the previous edition, the fast bowler was rewarded for his sustained brilliance throughout the competition with the Player-of-the-Tournament award
- The pace spearhead will be key to India's chances as the hosts eye history

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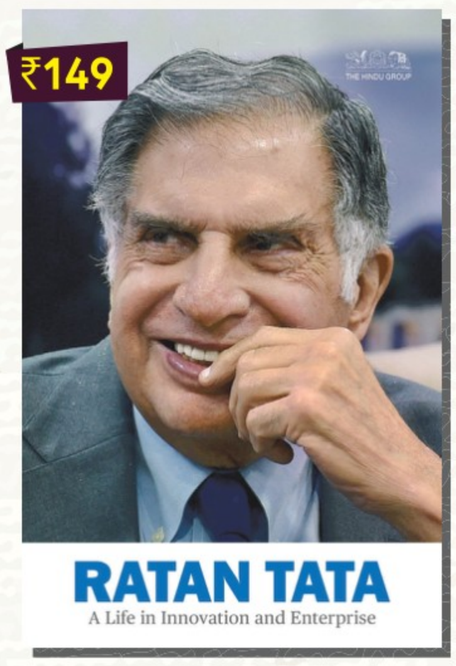

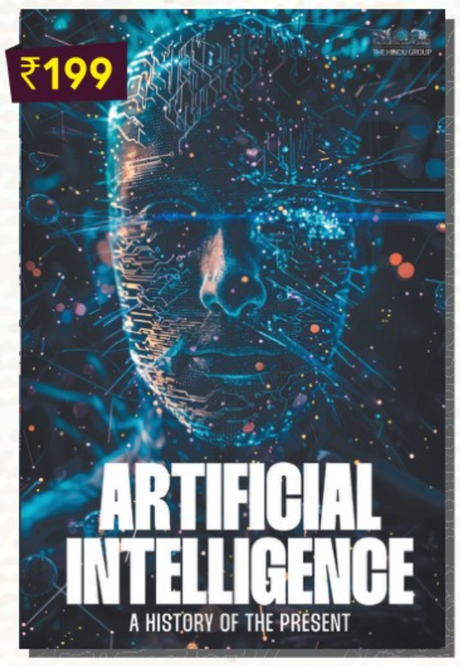

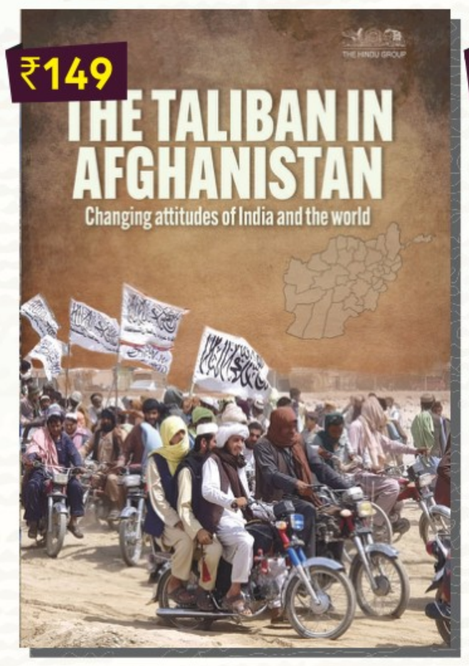

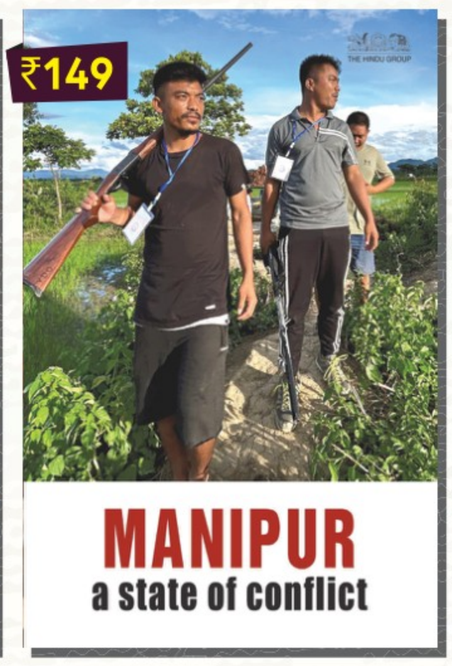

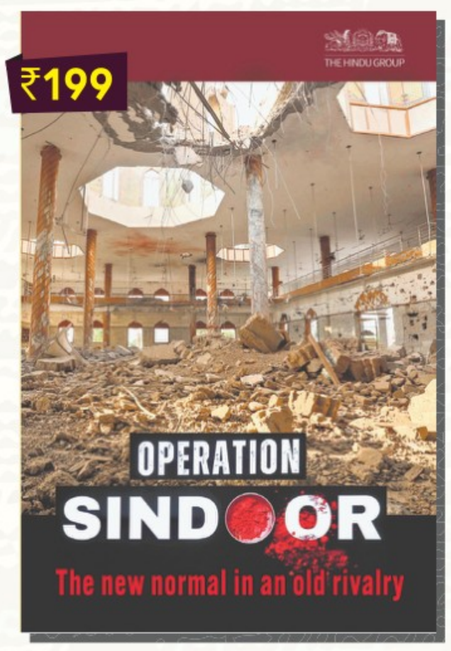

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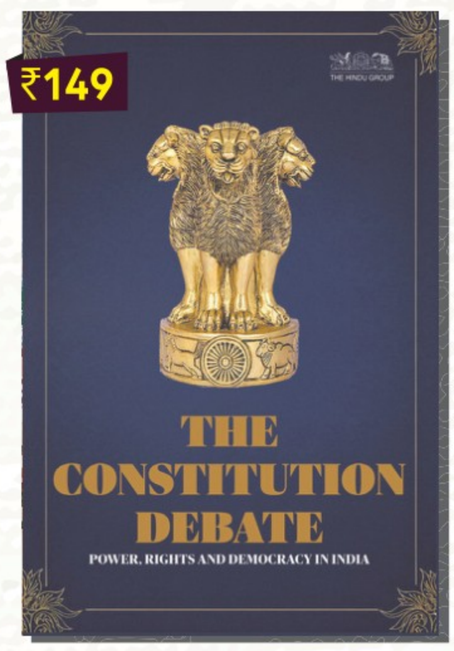

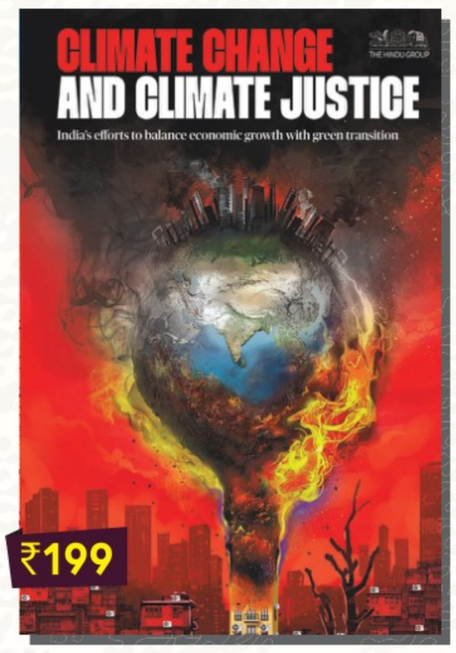

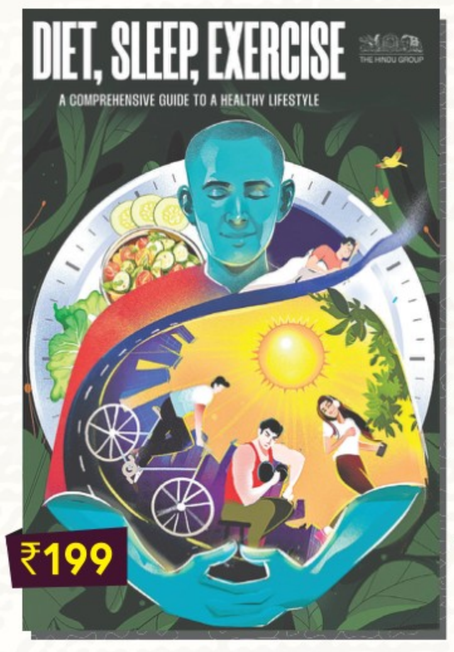

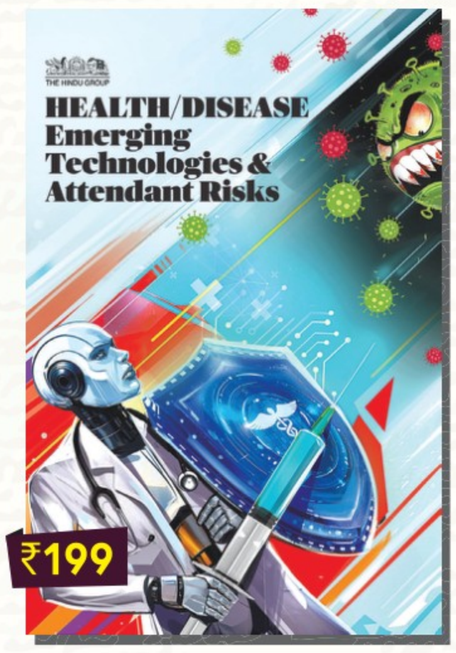

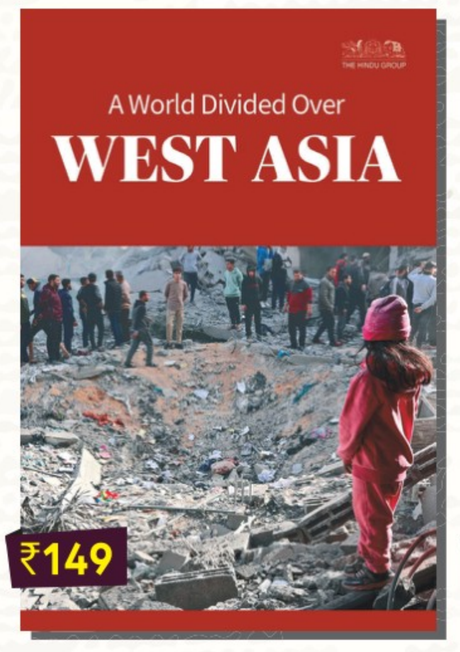

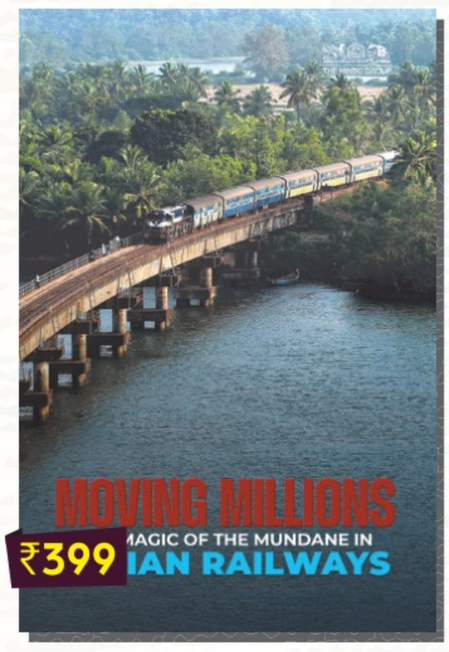

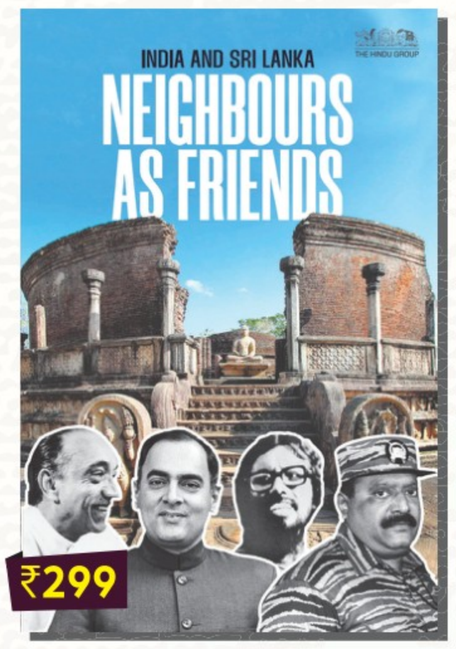

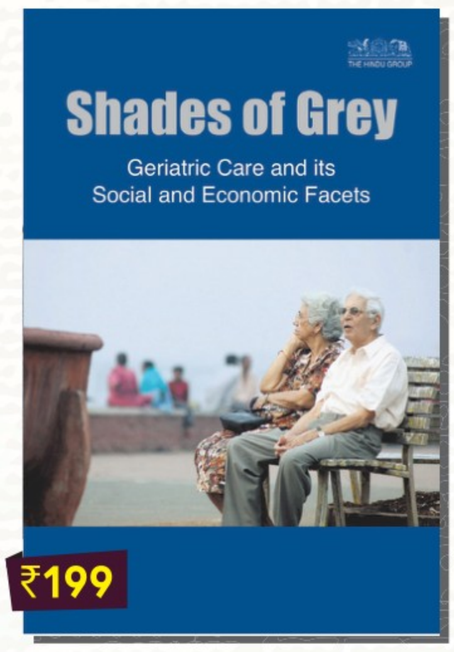

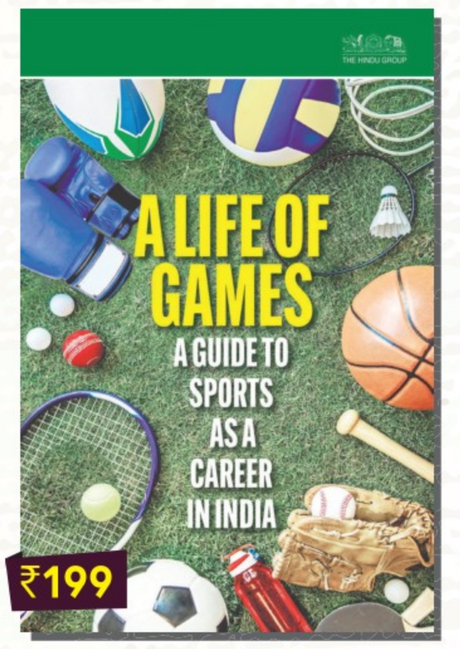

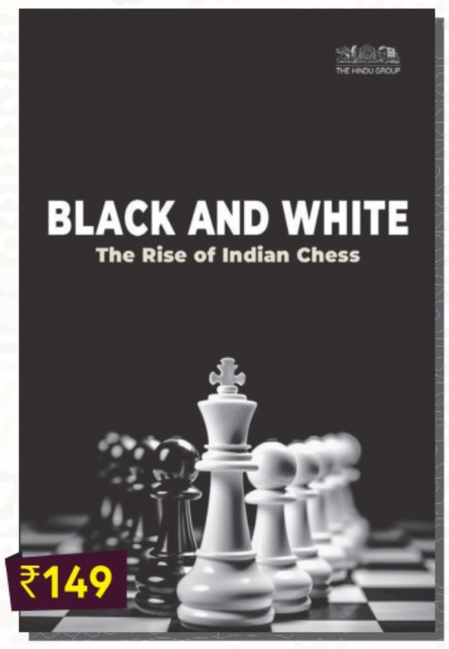

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Banking may be hit; transport, schools to function as usual

The strike, called by central trade unions and supported by organisations representing agricultural and informal sector workers, is expected to witness participation across sectors in several States

GENERAL STRIKE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The impact of nationwide general strike on Thursday called by various trade union organisations is likely to be minimal in Karnataka. While the banking services are likely to be affected in the State, public transport operations are expected to continue without major disruption. Schools are also set to function as usual, though the supply of midday meals may be impacted.

The strike, called by central trade unions and supported by organisations representing agricultural, rural, and informal sector workers, is expected to witness participation across sectors in several States.

Bank employees associated with the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) and Bank Employees Federation of India (BEFI) in Karnataka are expected to stay away from work.

However, in Karnataka, major transport utilities have indicated that commuter services are unlikely to be disrupted.

The KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation in Karnataka said it would extend moral support to the strike. "We are supporting the nationwide general strike in solidarity with workers' demands. However, we do not anticipate large-scale disruption of bus services in the State," a senior member of the federation said.

Bank employees associated with the All India Bank Employees' Association and Bank Employees' Federation of India in Karnataka are expected to stay away from work. FILE PHOTO

A senior official of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) clarified that operations would continue as scheduled.

"There will be no impact of the strike on KSRTC services. Buses will operate as usual across all divisions," the official said.

Similarly, a senior official of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) confirmed that city bus services in Bengaluru would run normally on Thursday.

At the Kempegowda International Airport, official sources from Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) said no advisory had been issued so far.

KSRTC and city bus services as well as Namma Metro operations will run as per the regular schedule, officials have confirmed

"We have not received any advisory regarding the strike. If there is any likely impact on flight movements or airport operations, we will issue passenger advisories. As of now, there is no issue anticipated," an official said.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) official also stated that Namma Metro services would operate as per the regular schedule.

Close to 2 lakh workers may participate in strike in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Joint Committee of Trade Unions will go on a general strike in Karnataka on Thursday, demanding the repeal of the four labour codes, among other things, more than one lakh industrial workers are expected to participate in the strike across the State.

The numbers may exceed two lakh workers, as the unorganised sectors have extended support to the strike, claimed trade unions.

"There will be strike and protest action at more than 175 taluks and 31 district headquarters across the State," said Meenakshi Sundaram, president, Karnataka State committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU).

Protests have been planned in all industrial areas around the city, such as Whitefield, Hoskote, Nelamangala, Doddaballapura, Bommasandra and Jigani.

"In the city centre, there will protest action near Town Hall," said Satyanand Mukund, State secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).

Demands

Among the eight demands that would be put forward during the strike, the primary one would be the repeal of the four labour codes notified by the Central government in November 2025.

"We are insisting that the State government not implement it. Under Article 254 of the Constitution, the State government has the power to frame rules to protect workers, especially because labour falls in the concurrent list. There are possibilities to amend the labour codes suitable for Karnataka," said Ms. Sundaram.

The other demands include restoration of the MGNREGA scheme, withdrawal of the Electricity Bill and Seed Bill, and measures to control price rise and ensure minimum support prices for agricultural produce, among others.

Across sectors

Workers from unorganised sectors such as construction, anganwadis, beedi and plantation workers, landless agricultural workers union, and rural employment guarantee scheme workers have extended support to the strike.

Minimum wage

"Notification of the minimum wages and introduction of the menstrual leave Bill are our main demands from the State government specifically," said Mr. Mukund.

Minister holds meeting

State Labour Minister Santosh Lad held a meeting on Wednesday with the trade unionists, during which he reportedly assured to form four committees with trade union representatives and employers to look at each of the codes.

The Minister reportedly assured that plans are on to introduce the Bill on menstrual leave soon in the State.

Midday meals likely to be disrupted as anganwadi and MDM workers extend support to strike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Midday Meal (MDM) programme at schools and anganwadis across the State is likely to be disrupted on Thursday as the MDM workers and Karnataka State Anganwadi Employees' Unions have extended support for the general strike called by trade unions against the four labour codes implemented by the Union government.

S. Varalakshimi, general secretary of Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), said that around 1.19 lakh MDM workers and 1.60 lakh anganwadi workers are working across the State, and they will participate in the strike.

Following this, the Department of School Education and Literacy has instructed the schools to take necessary alternate measures to avoid disruption.

The Director of PM Poshan Shakti Nirman Project has issued a note to all Deputy Directors at the district level asking them to convince MDM staff not to participate in the protest.

If it fails, the schools are asked to make alternate arrangements.

Praksh G.T. Nittali, Director of MDM PM Poshan, said not all workers are expected to take part in the strike.

'Not aware'

Meanwhile, Women and Child Development Department said that it is not aware of the anganwadi workers taking part in strike.

Even if they do, action will be taken to deliver meals to the homes of children, said Mahesh Babu N., Director, Directorate of Women and Child Development Department.

'Bacteria can talk to each other and are multilingual'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bacteria can get into us, make us sick, and they can even kill us - but they give us our life too. Bonnie Bassler, renowned molecular biologist and professor of Princeton University, best known for her work in bacterial communication, described bacteria as "magical microbes" holding great promise in the fields of medicine, environment and agriculture.

"Bacteria can talk to each other and are multilingual, have so much to teach us about how collective behaviours evolved on earth," said Prof. Bassler said at a lecture on Wednesday titled 'A chemical language that enables communication between diverse organisms'. "It's the bacteria in your gut that digests food and gives you those [nutrients]."

This phenomenon of bacterial communication, or "quorum sensing" could indeed be a game changer for medicine, by opening new avenues to develop anti-quorum sensing therapies instead of antibiotics. Several are "notorious bacterial characters," she said, specifically citing the deadly cholera-causing *Vibrio cholerae* bacterium, and perspectives on treating the disease.

Bonnie Bassler delivering a lecture at IISc in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

This bacterium is "the terrible cousin" to an obscure but brilliantly bioluminescent bacterium, the *Vibrio fischeri* that makes blue light and lives in a wonderful one-to-one symbiosis with a squid, she explained.

The large squids live in knee-deep water along the coast of Hawaii. And as it is a nocturnal animal, when scavenging under a bright moonlit sky, it needs a way to protect itself from predators that track the squid through their moving shadow. And this is where *Vibrio fischeri* glows under the squid, making it shadowless. We know that bacteria very early in life colonise us and they teach our immune system over time to keep harmful bacteria out and to let good bacteria in, she said, adding "We don't know how they do it, but we know that the microbes are in charge of educating our immune system."

"But there are no applications unless people, scientists make discoveries and work on mechanisms and work at the very basic part of how life on Earth manages to do what it does," Prof. Bassler said.

Prof. Bassler said she was delighted that she was delivering her lecture on the International Day for Women and Girls in Science.

One-day exhibition on February 14

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad, will host *WE Utsav*, a one-day exhibition celebrating rural women entrepreneurship, on February 14. The event will be held at the Indoor Stadium, Koramangala, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Entry is free and open to the public.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

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2	L8257104	ABC type DCP fire extinguisher having capacity 6kg as per RCF specification MDTS-46270(Rev-03)	02.03.2026 10.30 Hrs	800	No's
3	L8265097	SUPPLY ONE COACH SET OF 160 KN AIR SPRING ASSEMBLY FOR FIAT TYRE BOGIE	06.03.2026 10.30 Hrs	10	Sets

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Senior Divisional Material Manager, Bengaluru

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ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ದಕ್ಷಿಣ)

ನಂ.ಎಚ್.ಡಿ.ಎಂಸಿ/63/04/ಕಾನಿಅ(ದ)/2025–26 ದಿ: 11–02–2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ (ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ, 2023 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಪ್ಲಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.46156/2.76 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.46108/7.35 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (3) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.46144/8.75ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, 4) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48112/5.83 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (5) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48110/7.12 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (6) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48657/28.82 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (7) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48658/10.82 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (8) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.47246/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (9) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48222 /2.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (10) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.34890/3.80 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (11) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48518/9.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (12) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48504/6.60 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (13) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48514/4.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (14) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51319/7.12 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (15) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49733/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ (ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (16) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51690/4.36 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (17) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49574/6.20 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-I (18) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49592/8.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ ಪ.ಜಾ (ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (19) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49586/7.45 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (20) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49597/4.85 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (21) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49730/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಪಂ (ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) (22) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49732/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (23) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52363/6.32 ಲಕ್ಷ /2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (24) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52371/7.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-II (ಎ) (25) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52381/4.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-II(ಎ) (26) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52376/1.95 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಜಾ (ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (27) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52316/3.06 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-II(ಎ) (28) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52268/32.41 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) (29) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52315/4.57 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-I (30) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51688/15.00ಲಕ್ಷ/ 2ನೇಕರೆ/ ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-II(ಎ) (31) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52260/22.74 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-I (32) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52445/40.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) (33) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.20287/28.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (34) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54613/19.80 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (35) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54616/3.68 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (36) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52939/14.24 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (37) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48685/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-II(ಎ) (38) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54879/20.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (39) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54703/13.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (40) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54740/20.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ), (41) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54694/6.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (42) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54689/4.88 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) (43) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54691/9.45 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (44) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54696/4.30 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (45) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54864/20.15 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (46) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54865/9.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (47) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54866/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (48) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54855/30.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (49) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54867/25.75 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-II(ಎ) (50) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54868/9.80 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (51) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54869/14.97 ಲಕ್ಷ/ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (52) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54871/3.70 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-I (53) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54892/9.38 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (54) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54893/ 5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (55) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54975/3.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-II(ಎ) (56) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54974/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (57) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54976/5.17 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (58) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54946/1.83 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (59) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54944 /5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (60) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54945/4.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-II(ಎ) (61) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54890/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (62) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54870/4.70 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-II(ಎ) (63) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54557/7.90 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (64) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54758/14.61 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (65) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54905/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (66) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49729/47.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) (67) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51392/21.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (68) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.36183/14.70 ಲಕ್ಷ/5ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (69) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.33790/6.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/6ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (70) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.34040/12.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/6ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (71) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.37759/13.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/5ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (72) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.37468/18.89 ಲಕ್ಷ/5ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (73) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.42766/1.28 ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (74) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.42771/3.15 ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ, (75) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.37357/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಉಪ ಮಹಾಪೌರರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (76) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.36184/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/5ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (77) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.43159/8.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (78) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.40713/15.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (79) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51684/4.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/ 2ನೇಕರೆ/ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ-II(ಎ) ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಉಪ ಮಹಾಪೌರರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (80) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51685/25.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (81) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.51686/25.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (82) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54676/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಹೂಜ್ಯ ಮಹಾಪೌರರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (83) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.37772/5.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/5ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಹೂಜ್ಯ ಮಹಾಪೌರರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (84) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.53549/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (85) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54678/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಪಂ(ಎಸ್.ಟಿ) ಸನ್ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಾಮನಿರ್ದೇಶಿತ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (86) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.39668/21.30 ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಾಮನಿರ್ದೇಶಿತ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (87) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.40719/10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (88) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.40724/4.75ಲಕ್ಷ/4ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (89) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48225/5.25 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (90) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.48226/6.05 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Village development Fund) (91) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.52680/49.82 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (92) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.55033/6.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಪ.ಜಾ(ಎಸ್.ಸಿ) (93) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.55031/6.50 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (94) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54823/15.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (95) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.49734/10.00ಲಕ್ಷ/2ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (96) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.35982/4.95 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (97) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.20268/15.64 ಲಕ್ಷ/7ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (98) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.31079/49.25 ಲಕ್ಷ/3ನೇಕರೆ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 50% ಅನುಪಾತದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (99) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.53789/20.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ (100) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. 54863/8.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅನುದಾದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (101) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.54693/20.00 ಲಕ್ಷ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಹೆಸರು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಅವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಸದರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–02–2026 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.** ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

1) ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ 45 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–02–2026 ಸಂಜೆ: 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–02–2026 ಸಂಜೆ: 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ.

2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–03–2026 ಸಂಜೆ: 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–03–2026 ಸಂಜೆ: 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ದಕ್ಷಿಣ)
ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ.ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಡಿಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1218/ಮುನಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the property shown in the Schedule below from **SRI. M. MOHAN KUMAR,** S/o late A.S. Murgeshan, residing at No.2/28, 1st Cross, Devaiha Garden, Nagendra Flour Mill Road, Nagashetty Halli, R.M.V. II Stage, Bangalore-560 094.

Any person(s) having any claims or rights over the schedule property or having any valid and tenable objections to the proposal of my client to purchase the schedule property from **SRI. M. MOHAN KUMAR** may lodge his/her/their claims/rights or objections, if any with the undersigned within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Please note that if no valid objections or claims are received within the said period, my client shall proceed with the transactions and no claims / objections received thereafter will be entertained nor will it bind my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.2, Sy No.21/5, E-Khatha No.330196882, Ward No.18 - Radhakrishna Temple Ward, PID No. 100/401/2, situated at 1st Cross, Devaiha Garden, Nagendra Flour Mill Road, Nagashetty Halli, R.M.V. II Stage, Bangalore-560 094, measuring East to West 30 feet North to South 42 feet totally measuring 1260 Sq. feet and bounded as follows:- East by : Property No.1, West by : Private Property, North by : Road, South by : Private Property.

Comprising of a residential house having constructed on area of 400 Sq.ft,

Sd/- **NIRUPAN GOWDA,** Advocate,
No.51, Janaka Residency, Kumarakrupa Road, Madhava Nagar, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 001. Mobile No.72049 32559
Bangalore, Date: 11/02/2026

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT ANEKAL
O.S. No.741/2024

BETWEEN: Smt. Kumudha R w/o. Sri R.P Ramakrishnan aged about 56 years at- Villa 43, Casagrand Cosmos Vellakinar, Tamil Nadu- 641003 Represented by GPA Holder- Sri N. Gopala Reddy s/o. Nanjunda Reddy aged about 72 years R/at- No. 79 Narayanaghatta Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. ...**Plaintiff**

AND: Sri G. Venkataswamy reddy and Others ... **Defendants**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS No.1 to 13 and 15 to 18

1. Sri G. Venkataswamy Reddy s/o. late Sri Gulla Reddy aged about 74 years, **2. Smt. Sakamma** w/o. late Sri Rama Reddy aged about 84 years, **3. Smt. Padmamma** D/o. late Sri Rama Reddy aged about 59 years, **4. Sri Prakash** s/o Rama Reddy aged about 49 years, **5. Sri Narayana Reddy** s/o late Sri Venkata Ramanappa aged about 81 years, **6. Sri Krishna Reddy** s/o late Sri Venkata Ramanappa aged about 77 years, **7. Sri K. M Nanjappa** s/o late Sri Mariyappa Aaradhya aged about 67 years, **8. Sri K. M Shivanna Alias Shivanna Aradhaya** s/o late Sri Mariyappa Aaradhya aged about 66 years, **9. Smt. Mangalamma** w/o. late Sri K. M Basavaraja Aradhya aged about 67 years, **10. Sri B.Rudresh** s/o. late Sri K. M Basavaraja Aradhya aged about 45 years, **11. Smt. Gullamma** w/o. late Sri Jangama Reddy Major, **12. Smt. Radhamma** d/o. late Sri Jangama Reddy Major, **13. Smt. Rukminiyamma** d/o. late Sri Jangama Reddy major, **Defendants No. 1 to 13** are R/at-Kommasandara Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District. **15. Sri Arun Kumar S** Aged about 29 years s/o. Shivakumar r/at- No. 35/A, Sparsha Road

Budget gives science missions big figures but core funding gaps persist

The 2026-27 Union Budget touted science as an engine of growth but leading researchers in India see familiar gaps; they say that while new funds and big-ticket missions look impressive, basic research, state universities, and core institutes still face stagnant support and uncertain disbursement

T.V. Padma
Vasudevan Mukunth
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

Students, science and technology enthusiasts, and others visit the Indian Institute of Science campus in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The Union Budget 2026-27 presented science as an instrument of growth, with large numbers on biopharma, semiconductors, carbon capture, and research-linked industrial finance on paper. However, expert reactions to this budget point to a more fragile reality.

As the state attempts to move from adopting technologies to creating them, by building mission-linked platforms in biopharma, semiconductors, critical materials, and climate, it seems that the limiting factor isn't the ambition of schemes but what the government actually delivers – including reliable and timely funds, autonomy for research institutions, and the transparency and performance of large finance vehicles for innovation.

In 2023-24, allocation for the Department of Biotechnology was revised down from ₹2,683.86 crore (BE) to ₹1,607.32 crore (RE), and actual spending fell further to ₹1,467.34 crore. Likewise for the Department of Science and Technology, from ₹7,931.05 crore (BE) to ₹4,891.78 crore (RE) and actuals of ₹4,002.67 crore. Even in 2024-25, when the Depart of Biotechnology's RE of ₹2,460.13 crore exceeded its BE, the Department of Science and Technology experienced a sizeable cut from ₹8,029.01 crore (BE) to ₹5,661.45 crore (RE).

Biopharma SHAKTI

Against this backdrop, L.S. Shashidhara, director of the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, framed the biopharma outlay as welcome but incomplete. He pointed to "significant funding shortfalls following major changes introduced in 2024-25 to the fund-flow system" and to delays in the transition from the Science and Engineering Research Board to the Anusandhan National Research Foundation.

According to him, some of the under-spending in recent years may have been less about lack of intent and more about administrative disruption. The budget, he said, has at least avoided "punishing" science departments for that disruption by cutting overall allocations.

The biggest allocation this year was for a new programme called 'Biopharma SHAKTI', of ₹10,000 crore over five years. Department of Biotechnology secretary Rajesh Gokhale said it will address non-communicable diseases and scale indigenous development and manufacturing of biologics and biosimilars. He linked it explicitly to the earlier DBT-National Biopharma Mission.

Dr. Gokhale also said the next set of ambitions would include cell and gene therapy missions, biomanufacturing hubs and biofoundries, and "Moolankur" hubs that integrate AI with biology.

Big-ticket infra

The technical case for such a push is obvious. India has real competencies in vaccines, diagnostics, and bioengineering. The issue is whether the outlay will broaden the base or only thicken the top layer of applied programmes. Dr. Shashidhara expressed caution related to this: if Biopharma SHAKTI is administered primarily through the Department of Pharmaceuticals, as planned, it could privilege downstream manufacturing goals while neglecting the upstream life-science ecosystem that produces the tools and ideas.

So he asked that the Department of Pharmaceuticals "actively engage the broader life sciences community" in design and implementation. He also said longstanding prevention programmes and the routine issuance of small- and medium-sized grants could deliver high social returns – but only if agencies and the Finance Ministry's Expenditure Division fix the problem of "smooth and timely fund flow".

A similar tension appears in the budget's embrace of big-ticket infrastructure linked to 'missions'. N. Kalaiselvi, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) director-general N. Kalaiselvi read the budget as "a strong and reassuring affirmation" of science as an engine of growth and self-reliance.

She highlighted sustained support to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the CSIR and welcomed mission-mode initiatives such as Biopharma SHAKTI, India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, the new carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS) mission, and expanded support for electronic components manufacturing, and critical minerals.

Gap in astronomy

IIT-Madras Institute Professor T. Pradeep also welcomed the way the budget embedded research "across multiple mission-mode initiatives" and said platforms and infrastructure that span multiple sectors, such as clinical trial networks and industry-linked training centres, could improve India's translational capacity and "full-stack" capabilities. His proviso, however, was that the budget "largely presents policy perspectives". He also said he expected "various missions/ministries to allocate sector-specific funding" in the coming years.

As the state attempts to move from adopting technologies to creating them, by building mission-linked platforms in biopharma, semiconductors, critical materials, and climate sectors, it seems that the limiting factor isn't the ambition of schemes but what the government actually delivers

This has in fact been a recurring problem in India's research ecosystem: the government often proclaims science as a foundation for missions but often defers the stable, long-term financing required for that foundation to future plans.

Raman Research Institute director Tarun Souradeep remarked favourably on the budget's support for major national observational facilities and recalled the various spin-off technologies these facilities have produced, including CCD imaging and instruments for high-frequency communications.

'Globally fashionable script'

However, National Institute of Advanced Studies adjunct professor C.P. Rajendran articulated a counterpoint: that while the Finance Ministry's proposal to upgrade four astronomy facilities, including the National Large Solar Telescope and the National Large Optical Infrared Telescope, at ₹3,500 crore could strengthen the field, the support for the Indian Institute of Astrophysics has stagnated while a set of autonomous institutes including the Institute has received only ₹1,623 crore.

More broadly, Dr. Rajendran said the budget followed a "globally fashionable script" that privileges applied sectors such as space applications and semiconductors while continuing to underfund basic research.

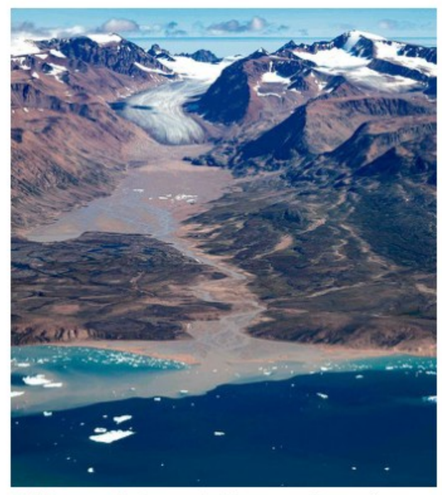
He added that India's gross expenditure on R&D has hovered around 0.64-0.7% of GDP for years, which when adjusted for inflation amounts to cuts in real terms. He also said the state's hope that private capital will carry domestic R&D hasn't materialised at the required scale.

While Dr. Shashidhara welcomed the ₹20,000 crore for the Research, Development and Innovation Fund, Dr. Rajendran recalled that a promise in the 2024-25 budget to deploy ₹1 lakh crore over seven years has been followed by only ₹3,000 crore disbursed so far.

Likewise, Panjab University vice-chancellor Renu Vig lauded the budget's emphasis on "university townships" as a move towards integrated industry in education but she also argued that the Centre shouldn't bypass legacy State universities in favour of new enclaves. Instead, she suggested a "thematic cluster" where "a legacy State university leads in the basic sciences, humanities, and regional innovation, while technical institutes provide the necessary toolsets.

"This kind of multi-disciplinarity is the core of the National Education Policy 2020 and it is already in the DNA of legacy institutions. These universities educate more than 80% of our students and have built the nation's intellectual foundation over decades; they are a national asset that must be nurtured to ensure the success of India's new educational map," Dr. Vig added.

(T.V. Padma is a science journalist based in New Delhi. tvpadma_10@yahoo.co.in; Vasudevan Mukunth is science editor, The Hindu. mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in)



Cold ground: The Arctic is home to diverse flora and fauna from tundra shrubs to beluga whales. AFP

As the Arctic warms, threat of invasive plants looms

Divya Gandhi

The frozen Arctic presents one of the most iconic stories of climate change: we have all seen pictures of icebergs collapsing into the ocean and polar bears left stranded on a shrinking patch of sea ice. The Arctic has in fact become a site of "last-chance tourism", according to a paper published earlier this month in Nature Climate Change. Millions of visitors behold the vanishing glaciers and collectively express their "ecological grief" over the imminent change in its landscape.

In its warmest parts, the Arctic is habitat to shrubs such as bearberry, and in the coldest parts the ground is bare but for thick layers of non-vascular plants,

Climate change and human activity are affecting Arctic ecosystems which have largely been shielded from devastating effects of alien species so far

such as mosses and lichens, that form the tundra ecosystem. The snowy owl, the Arctic fox, the grizzly bear, seals, walruses, and belugas live here.

Now, another study published in NeoBiota has reported that thousands of alien floral species could "invade" and transform the Arctic ecology forever. These plants have a chance of surviving the warming Arctic if they manage to find a way to get there and proliferate.

The authors, at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, have already found an unexpected number of non-native species in Svalbard, including the common meadow rue, a shrub native to Russia and parts of Europe, in full bloom. In fact, they reported 2,554 vascular plants could find a suitable climatic niche in the new Arctic.

"Our results show that alien species from virtually all over the world can find a niche in the Arctic. And with all the human activity in the Arctic now, there are lots of opportunities to get there," study coauthor and university associate professor Kristine Bakke Westergaard, was quoted as saying in a release.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Nature considers alien species that displace native ones as one of the greatest threats to species diversity on the earth.

Scientists at the Norwegian University and from the University of Liverpool used data from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility to reveal six major potential hotspots for introductions: western Alaska, southwestern and southeastern Greenland, northern Iceland, Fennoscandia, and Kanin-Pechora.

Unlike most areas of the world, Arctic terrestrial ecosystems have largely been shielded from the devastating effects of alien species "due to natural barriers, including short growing seasons, harsh climatic conditions, and limited human activity and disturbance," the paper said. But climate change and increasing human activity are changing this, it added. An older inventory in the Arctic documented 341 taxa, of which 188 had become naturalised in at least one floristic province, per the paper.

The most common routes for naturalised species is "escape from confinement," which accounts for 48% of invasive plant introductions, while "transport-stowaway" accounts for 37%. Seed contaminants and "transport via vehicles" have been important routes, each contributing 14% of introductions, the paper said. "However, a significant proportion (43%) of introductions remains classified as 'unknown'".

Last October, mosquitoes were found in Iceland for the first time, as global warming has made it a suitable habitat for the insect. Antarctica is currently the last remaining mosquito-free area.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Remembering Charles Darwin, who was born on this day in 1809

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Charles Darwin originally went to the University of Edinburgh to study _____, but he disliked the experience so much that he left, but not before he learnt taxidermy from the British taxidermist John Edmonstone. In his second year, Darwin began to focus on natural history. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

The voyage that shaped Darwin's science was the second expedition of the HMS _____, in 1831-1836. He boarded as a young naturalist and spent years collecting specimens across South America and elsewhere. However, he didn't instantly 'discover' evolution. The meaning of his findings became clear after further studies and expert inputs back in Britain. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

Darwin developed the core idea of natural selection years before publishing it. One important intellectual inspiration was X's essay on population. Darwin applied the idea of people competing for limited resources in the essay to living organisms, helping him see how selection could operate continuously. Name X.

QUESTION 4

Darwin's major work, On the Origin of Species, was published in 1859 and sold out quickly. It proposed natural selection as a principal mechanism driving adaptation. Y independently arrived at a similar mechanism; his 1858 letter to Darwin prompted a joint presentation of their ideas at the Linnean Society of London. Name Y.

QUESTION 5

Darwin also wrote ___ _____ __ ___ in 1871, which extended evolutionary arguments to humans and introduced sexual selection, with traits shaped by mating success rather than just survival. Fill in the blanks.

Visual: Name this woman, a pioneer of close-up photography who also captured the famous 1862 image of Charles Darwin with a big beard. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Answers to February 5 quiz:
1. Location of fort through which IST's time meridian passes – **Ans: Prayagraj**
2. New Zealand territory with a 45-minute timezone offset – **Ans: Chatham Islands**
3. Country with the most number of timezones – **Ans: France**
4. Republic with the earliest timezone on the earth – **Ans: Kiribati**
5. Country in the 'wrong' timezone for more than 80 years – **Ans: Spain**

Visual**: Pips**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal

Corrections & Clarifications

The size of the NLOT's primary mirror was erroneously printed as 30 m in the February 9 article "Budget boosts domestic space research while spending lags behind". It is 13.7 m

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300;
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3: BODYCARE
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Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT PUBLICATION

ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Transport & Muzrai,
Government of Karnataka

In accordance with Rule 125 (C) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, all regular buses and sleeper coach buses registered in the State shall mandatorily comply with the provisions to implement the following safety measures :

- AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY STANDARD
- CODE OF PRACTICE FOR BUS BODY DESIGN AND APPROVAL AIS-052/AIS-153
- REQUIREMENTS FOR SLEEPER COACH BUSES AIS-119
- PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

01 The partition door installed behind the driver in all sleeper coach buses registered in the State shall be removed

02 Sliders fitted to sleeper berths in all sleeper coach buses shall be removed

03 All sleeper coach buses registered on or after 01-04-2019 shall be equipped with a Fire Detection and Suppression System (FDSS)

04 In contravention of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Rules made there under transportation of commercial goods in passenger buses including sleeper coach buses is strictly prohibited

05 Operation of buses constructed by unauthorized extension of chassis shall be discontinued forthwith

06 Every bus shall have a design layout drawing indicating emergency exits location of fire extinguishers, and roof hatches affixed inside the vehicle at a place easily visible and readable to passengers

07 As per the standards prescribed under Bus Body Code AIS:119, Buses up to 12 metres in length shall have a minimum of four (4) emergency exits and Buses exceeding 12 metres in length shall have a minimum of five (5) emergency exits

08 In buses constructed with body structure conforming to AIS:052 and AIS:119, luggage carriers provided on the roof and ladders shall be removed

09 All sleeper coach buses shall be fitted with fire extinguishers of minimum capacity of 10 kilograms

10 Bus body building agencies shall possess a valid certificate under Rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and only vehicles manufactured by such certified agencies shall be registered

11 Vehicles will be registered only after verification of the certificate forms 22 and 22A issued by the approved testing agencies

It is hereby notified that failure to comply with the above directions on or before 28-02-2026 shall attract strict action under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Rules framed thereunder against the vehicle owners concerned.

Sd/-
Commissioner
Transport & Road Safety

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The fine imposed on Telegram by a Russian court

11 in million roubles. A Russian court has fined the Telegram messaging app around 11 million roubles ($142,210.73) for refusing to remove banned content which the authorities regard as extremist. The state communications watchdog said that Telegram would face further restrictions. REUTERS

Number of troops deployed by the U.S. to train Nigerian military

200 The United States will deploy 200 troops to Nigeria to train its armed forces in their fight against jihadist groups, as Washington increases military cooperation with the West African country. The additional troops will provide "training and technical guidance". AFP

Number of people suffering from cataracts as per WHO

94 in million. More than 94 million people suffer from cataracts, but half of them do not have access to the surgery needed to fix it, the World Health Organization said. Cataracts — the clouding of the eye's lens that causes blurred vision and can lead to blindness — are on the rise. AFP

Passengers handled by Dubai International Airport in 2025

95.2 in million. Dubai International Airport maintained its crown as the world's busiest airport last year, as officials said on Wednesday that a record 95.2 million passengers transited through its terminals, part of the emirate's continued economic boom. PTI

Polling stations considered 'risk-prone' in Bangladesh

50 in per cent. More than half the polling centres have been identified as "risk-prone" for the general elections in Bangladesh. Officials said 90% of them will be under CCTV surveillance, with many policemen deployed in the capital, Dhaka. PTI

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Have States gained from the 16th FC?

What have been the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission? What taxes are shared between the Centre and the States? Why did the last Commission revise vertical devolution to 41%? What had industrialised States such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana demanded?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

The 16th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya has submitted its report for the period of 2026-31. The Central government has accepted its recommendations with respect to devolution of funds from Centre to States.

What were past recommendations?

The Constitution in Article 270 provides for the scheme of distribution of net tax proceeds collected by the Central government between the Centre and the States. The taxes that are shared between the Centre and the States include corporation tax, personal income tax, Central Goods and Services Tax (GST), Centre's share of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) etc. This division is based on the recommendation of the Finance Commission that is constituted every five years as per the terms of Article 280. This divisible pool, however, does not include cess and surcharge that are levied by the Centre. For the year, 2025-26, it is estimated that the divisible pool constitutes only around 81% of the gross tax revenue of the Centre after excluding cess and surcharge.

Till the 13th FC (2010-2015), the devolution involved specific transfers for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) with extensive conditionalities. The share of States in Central taxes (vertical devolution) was fixed at 32%. However, since the 14th FC (2015-2020), the specific transfers for CSS were discontinued and the vertical devolution was increased to 42%. It was revised down to 41% in the 15th FC (2020-2026) due to the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

The criteria for distribution amongst the States (horizontal devolution) since the 13th FC is provided in Table 1. As can be observed, higher weightage has been given for equity (income gap) and needs (population and area) when compared to efficiency (forests, demographic performance and tax effort).

FILE PHOTO

The share for States

Till the 13th FC (2010-2015), the devolution involved specific transfers for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) with extensive conditionalities

Table 1: Criteria for horizontal devolution amongst States

Criteria	13th FC 2010-15	14th FC 2015-20	15th FC 2020-26	16th FC 2026-31
Income distance	47.5	50	45	42.5
Population (1971)	25	17.5	-	
Population (2011)	-	10	15	17.5
Area	10	15	15	10
Forests	-	7.5	10	10
Fiscal discipline	17.5	-	-	
Demographic performance	-	-	12.5	10
Tax effort	-	-	2.5	
State's contribution to GDP				10
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

What were States' demands?

Firstly, as regards vertical devolution, 18 States had demanded that the States' share be increased from the current 41% to 50%. Few other States had demanded an increase of 45% to 48%. Many States had demanded the inclusion of cess and surcharge in the divisible pool as well as fixing a cap on cess and surcharge that could be levied by the Centre.

Secondly, as regards horizontal devolution, many States had pitched for the continued dominance of equity parameters in the criteria. Equally, many States had recommended reducing the weight assigned to 'income distance' as a criterion. Industrialised States such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana had recommended the inclusion of States' contribution to GDP among the horizontal devolution criteria.

What did the 16th FC recommend?

With respect to the demands regarding vertical devolution, the FC opined that under the present constitutional scheme, it is neither permissible nor desirable to fix a cap on cess and surcharge or for their inclusion in the divisible pool. These instruments may also be needed to raise resources for the Union to meet any exigencies. Similarly, the FC recommended retaining the States' share in vertical devolution at its current level of 41% considering three main reasons – the States' share in total tax revenues of the country; that much of the spending of the Union in CSS is anyway ultimately routed to the States; and that the Union government needs increased funds for defence and infrastructure.

In its approach for horizontal devolution, the FC was guided by two principles. First, changes to each State's share in the portion of divisible pool should be gradual. Second, due recognition should be given to efficiency and especially the States' contributions to growth. Accordingly, a new criterion of State's contribution to GDP has been added. The weightage to this new criterion as well as other criteria has been assigned in such a way that it spells a directional change without causing a drastic shift in States' shares.

Considering all the above factors, the share of southern and western States has marginally increased while the share of big north and central States has marginally decreased. Hence, one may conclude that it is status quo as far as vertical and horizontal devolution is concerned with a directional change towards providing due recognition for efficiency. Additionally, the following observations of the FC should be borne in mind. The Centre should progressively reduce raising revenues through cess and surcharge. The States should make their subsidies efficient and targeted, actively pursue reforms in the power sector, and rein in the levels of their fiscal deficit and debt. The Centre and States should undertake various public sector enterprise reforms.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified.' He trains at Officers IAS academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- The Constitution in Article 270 provides for the scheme of distribution of net tax proceeds collected by the Central government between the Centre and the States.
- With respect to the demands regarding vertical devolution, the FC opined that under the present constitutional scheme, it is neither permissible nor desirable to fix a cap on cess and surcharge or for their inclusion in the divisible pool.
- In its approach for horizontal devolution, the FC was guided by two principles. First, changes to each State's share in the portion of divisible pool should be gradual. Second, due recognition should be given to efficiency and especially the States' contributions to growth.

Elections in Bangladesh: looking towards the future

Which are the two major blocs competing in the Bangladesh elections? What is the referendum for?

Tabshir Shams

The story so far:

The fate of the 'Second Liberation' of Bangladesh shall be decided on February 12, the day of its general elections. Around 12.7 crore voters are going to cast their vote for 300 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad (National Parliament) and for a national referendum on the July charter.

Who is contesting in this election?

A total of 2,034 candidates, including 275 independents, are contesting this election. There are 80 candidates from the minority Hindu community and 85 women candidates. There were 17 Hindu MPs in the 2024 Jatiya Sangsad. Currently, there are 59 registered political parties in Bangladesh, of which 51 are participating in the elections. There are two major blocs – the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and a 11 party alliance which includes Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP) among others. The BNP is contesting for 292 seats out of the 300, leaving the remaining seats for its coalition partners. Jamaat is contesting in 224 seats; they have no women candidates, and only one Hindu candidate. The NCP, a youth party that emerged after the July Revolution, is contesting in 30 seats.

What is the Awami League's status?

The Awami League (AL), which was the party of the ousted former Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, has had its registration suspended by the Bangladesh election commission. In May 2025, the interim government headed by Mohd. Yunus banned all activities of Awami League under the Anti-Terrorism Act. According to Transparency International Bangladesh, 1,785 cases had been filed nationwide against AL activists and supporters as of November 19, 2025. AFM Bahauddin Nasim, joint general secretary of the Awami League, told *The Hindu* on February 8, that the party has boycotted the election and instructed its supporters not to vote. Ms. Hasina has maintained that the elections are undemocratic, and that a large section of the population will boycott the polls.

What is the national referendum?

Apart from the general elections, citizens are also required to vote "Yes" or "No" on the July charter. After the ouster of Ms. Hasina, following mass protests against her government, in 2024, faith was reposed in Nobel Laureate Mohd. Yunus. Mr. Yunus was appointed Chief Adviser to the interim government and also made chair of the National Consensus Commission (NSS). The NSS was to suggest structural reforms to the state which include constitutional, electoral, and judicial amendments. Of the 166 recommendations of the NCC, 84 were taken up forming the "National Charter of July 2025". Major reforms in the charter are centred around making constitutional bodies more independent, proposing a bicameral legislature, and increasing women's representation in parliament. If the "Yes" vote prevails then the newly formed parliament will be bound to implement the charter's provisions within 180 days. If its "No", then the risk of one-party rule and weak institutions will loom over Bangladesh's future.

What have been India's observations?

India was invited by Mr. Yunus as an observer for the elections. More than 330 international observers, double that of the previous controversial 2024 elections, have been invited as observers. India is yet to confirm this invitation.

India remains the largest trading partner of Bangladesh in South Asia. Many infrastructure and connectivity projects like the Kolkata-Khulna, Agartala-Akhaura, Haldibari-Chilahati as well as the 1,000 MW electricity export to Bangladesh and the Tripura-Comilla power link are the strategic pillars of this bilateral relationship. However, since the 2024 regime change, there has been a degree of ambivalence between the two nations. Only time will tell how the relationship will progress between the two neighbours.

Tabshir Shams is a postgraduate student from South Asian University, Delhi.

THE GIST

- A total of 2,034 candidates, including 275 independents, are contesting this election.
- The Awami League (AL), which was the party of the ousted former Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, has had its registration suspended by the Bangladesh election commission.
- Apart from the general elections, citizens are also required to vote "Yes" or "No" on the July charter.

EV battery swapping stations to be set up at city bus terminals

BMTC has identified locations, including Shantinagar, Domlur TTMC, Malleswaram, Yelahanka New Town, Nagarbhavi and Vidyaranyapura

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

A senior BMTC official says the initiative is part of a broader effort to support the city's transition to electric mobility. FILE PHOTO

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will set up electric vehicle (EV) battery swapping stations at its bus stations across Bengaluru in a move aimed at encouraging clean mobility and better utilisation of transport infrastructure for non-fare revenue.

According to the officials, BMTC will provide open spaces at select bus terminals on a licence-fee basis; the corporation has called a tender for the same recently. Officials said the bidder quoting the highest monthly licence fee will be awarded the contract.

"The selected licensee will be responsible for the installation, operation, and maintenance of battery swapping stations, while BMTC's role will be limited to providing space and issuing necessary no-objection certificates," an official said.

The BMTC has identified multiple locations across the city, including Shantinagar, Domlur TTMC, Malleswaram, Yelahanka New Town, Nagarbhavi and Vidyaranyapura, with spaces ranging from 120 to 250 sq. ft.

A senior BMTC official said that the initiative was part of a broader effort to support the city's transition to electric mobility. "Bus terminals are high-footfall locations and ideal for last-mile EV infrastructure. Battery swapping can significantly reduce downtime for electric two-wheelers and small commercial vehicles, which are increasingly being used in the city," the official added.

According to the tender document, the licence will be valid for an initial period of three years, extendable by another three years on mutual consent.

As per the tender document, the licensee will have to obtain all statutory approvals, arrange electricity supply under the EV tariff from BESCOM, and comply with safety norms prescribed by national standards.

"The model allows BMTC to generate non-fare revenue while promoting environmentally sustainable transport options. Importantly, the operational and safety responsibilities lie entirely with the licensee, ensuring that passenger movement within bus stations is not affected," the official said.

According to BMRCL, UPI transactions made via QR code scanning at station counters and through mobile apps were affected between 6.40 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Tuesday. FILE PHOTO

Tech outage disrupts UPI payments at metro ticket counters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to BMRCL, the disruption was not due to any fault in its systems but due to technical issue at NPCI

Commuters using the Namma Metro faced inconvenience on Tuesday after UPI-based payments at ticket counters and through online applications recorded a sharp dip in success rates due to a nationwide technical outage.

According to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), UPI transactions made via QR code scanning at station counters and through mobile apps were affected between 6.40 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

'No role in outage'

The disruption, BMRCL said in a release, was not due to any fault in its systems but stemmed from a technical issue at the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which manages the UPI network across the country. "BMRCL facilitates UPI payments through multiple banking handles. However, all were impacted during the above-mentioned period due to a nationwide issue. Our internal systems were functioning normally, and our role in the outage was nil," the BMRCL said.

Services restored

Services were fully restored after 9.00 p.m., allowing passengers to resume digital payments without difficulty.

K-RIDE distributes insurance certificates to project-affected families

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of the RAP, a detailed census and socio-economic survey identified 263 project-affected persons along a 1.2-km stretch of the Corridor-2 alignment at Lingarajapuram and Banaswadi. FILE PHOTO

Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd. (K-RIDE) on Wednesday distributed Social Security Term Insurance Certificates to project-affected persons (PAPs) along Corridor-2 of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP).

The distribution took place during an Orientation Programme on Skill Development and Livelihood Restoration held at Yeshwantapur, according to a release.

Lakshman Singh, managing director of K-RIDE, handed over the certificates to PAPs, including slum dwellers, squatters, and members of the project workforce. Mr. Singh underlined the importance of integrating social safeguards with infrastructure development. He said that the BSRP is not just about improving urban mobility and reducing congestion and emissions, but also about ensuring fair compensation, social security coverage, and livelihood restoration for communities affected by large infrastructure projects.

As part of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), a detailed census and socio-economic survey identified 263 project-affected persons along a 1.2-km stretch of the Corridor-2 alignment at Lingarajapuram and Banaswadi. This included 100 notified slum dwellers and 163 squatters. With support from the Karnataka Slum Development Board, eligible PAPs were provided financial assistance after consultations and disclosure of entitlements. Many families voluntarily self-relocated after receiving the required support, the release stated.

The programme focused on long-term livelihood restoration. Resource persons from the Rural Development and Self-Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) briefed participants on various skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities. "The convenor of the State Level Bankers Committee elaborated on social security and insurance schemes of the State and Central governments. Under post-resettlement measures, affected households and the project workforce have been linked to several central government schemes providing insurance coverage of up to ₹6 lakh per person," the release added.

Science exhibition today at NCBS-TIFR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCBS-TIFR), will host a one-day pop-up science exhibition at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M.G Road, on Thursday from 12.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The event marks the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and will feature interactive exhibits and science-themed games.

A highlight of the programme is the "Talk to a Scientist" session, offering visitors the chance to engage informally with women scientists. The event is free and open to all.

Power shutdown tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bescom has announced that power supply will be disrupted on Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in areas serviced by the 66/11 kV Manyata Tech Park MUSS. The shutdown is required to carry out periodic maintenance on the incoming and outgoing lines, transformer bays, 66 kV and 11 kV bus systems, and breakers.

Several localities, including B.T.S Layout, Hebbal, Kempapura, Vinayaka Layout, Chiranjeevi Layout, Venkategowda Layout, Rachenahalli, Srirampura, Chamundeshwari Layout, Royal Enclave, Mestri Palya, Thanisandra, Karle Town Centre, B. Narayanapura Cross, BDS Layout, Coffee Board Layout, Fathima Layout, Amarjyothi Layout, Mariyannapalya, and surrounding areas will be affected.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, FEB. 12		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:24
RISE	02:29	SET 13:55
FRIDAY, FEB. 13		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:25
RISE	03:22	SET 14:48
SATURDAY, FEB. 14		
RISE	06:42	SET 18:25
RISE	04:13	SET 15:43

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	31	16
Bengaluru	28	15

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **Mr.G.Nagendra Prasad,** S/o. Shivappa Gurudev, is the absolute owner of the Residential Apartment bearing No. F-1, First Floor measuring about 1,100 Sq.Ft., bearing Site No.17 & 18, situated at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North.

Further Mr.G.Nagendra Prasad while travelling had misplaced/lost the original Rectification Deed dt:20-03-2010, bg. Doc. No.BYP-1-04768-2009-10, stored in C.D No.BYPD44, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Byatarayanapura, executed by one S.Velayudam for the purpose of rectifying the Sale Deed dt:26-08-2008 bg. Doc. No.BYP-1-01006-2008-09, stored in C.D No.BYPD20, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Byatarayanapura, with respect to the above mentioned Apartment and to that effect, he has also lodged Compliant (Bengaluru City) **on 10/02/2026 (Lost report no.2055656/2026).**

Any finder/ or any person having any type of claim may kindly return the above mentioned Rectification Deed or file objections to the Undersigned within **7 days** from the date of notice, failing which my client shall presume that the same is lost and shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims/interest whatsoever from any person/s.

Chethan Kumar N, Advocate
TARKA LEGAL,
No.15/1, 3rd Main
Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560080
Mobile : 7829444449

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client **Sri.VENKATESULU, S/o Anjinappa M,** residing at No.29, Jayaprakash Narayan Colony, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064, represents that the Sale deed dated 12.01.2010 and Registered as Document No.YAN-1-2545/2009-10, in the office of the Sub Registrar Yelahanka, executed by Tahasildar, Bangalore North Taluk (Additional), Bangalore to and in favour of **Sri.Venkateshalu S/o Anjanappa,** in respect to the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder is lost/misplace and not traceable.

If anybody other than the aforesaid **Sri. VENKATESULU** has any claim, right, title and interest on the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** by virtue of being in possession or any Rights they should file their claim with documentary proof within **Seven days** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice in our office, at the address mentioned below, failing which, it will be taken for granted that nobody has any manner of right, title, interest or claim over the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** other than the said **Sri. VENKATESULU**

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing **Site No.47,** Present BBMP Katha No.2110. Situated at **JPN Colony, Yelahanka Old Town, Yelahanka Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk (Additional), Bangalore,** now comes under the Limits of Bangalore North City Corporation, Bangalore, measuring East to West **17.50 feet** and North to South **17 feet,** in all measuring **297.5 Sq.feet.,** and is bounded on the:

East by : House belongs to Munirathna; West by : House belongs to Muniyamma; North by : House belongs to Puttamma and South by : Halla;

Shruthi.S, Advocate
Unit No.101, 1st Floor, No.663, at 3rd Cross, Opp: to Karnataka Bank, K.R.Puram, Bangalore-560036

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my clients **Mr. WINSTON JUDE D'CRUZ and Mrs. LINDA MARIE D'CRUZ,** both residing at No.135, Garden Apartments, Vittal Mallya Road, opposite UB City, Bengaluru-560001 are the absolute owners and are in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. They have lost/misplaced the Sale Deed dated 26-10-1995, registered as document No.2634/1995 of Book I, Volume 964 pages at 191 to 194, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Denkenikotai , pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged **on 11-02-2026 vide Lost Report No. 2057800/2026.** I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said documents, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my clients and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Survey No. 92** extent of 44 cents, Plot No. 246-247 of **RBMA RAINBOW VALLEY** at **Panchakshipuram Village, Denkenikotai Taluk, Dharmapuri District,** measuring **44 cents** bounded as follows with in the **44 cents** only.

North By : Vendors Land; South By : Road; East By : Road; West By : Vendors Land;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, Meera Nivas,
North Park Road, Seshadripuram,
Bangalore-560 020. Mobile : 9740718436

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my clients **Mr. Sankranth Gubbi and Mr. Sathvik Gubbi,** both residing at Flat No.I-1004, Brigade Gateway Apartments, No.26/1, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Malleshwaram West, Bengaluru-560 055 are the absolute owners and are in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. They have lost/misplaced the Original WILL dated 31-12-1997, registered as document No.384/1997-98 of Book III, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged **on 10-02-2026 vide Lost Report No.2054302/2026.** I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said documents, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my clients and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Municipal No.68/3, New E PID No.9660360965,** situated at **Yeshwanthpura Industrial Suburb, Bengaluru,** measuring **790.7 square meters** or **8511 square feet** and bounded on the;

East by : Main Road; West by : Sri. G. Somashekar's Vacant Land; North by : Sri. G. Rajashekar's Vacant Land; South by : H K Munivenkataswamappa;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, Meera Nivas,
North Park Road, Seshadripuram,
Bangalore-560 020. Mobile : 9740718436

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAJAHAN Abdul Rahman, S/o Abdul Rahman R/a 27 E No 11th Street, H K P Road Cross, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051 have changed my name to Shahjahan vide affidavit dt: 09.02.2026 sworn before Notary Bhagya Kumari N, B'lore

I, RAHUL Gaurav S/o Manoj Kumar, R/a No 218, Samrudhi, 4th main 2nd Cross, Coffee Board Layout, Kempapura, Bangalore- 560024. here by declare that my name Rahul Gaurav and Rahul Gaurav Manoj both name belongs to me only. Hence forth I shall be known and called as Rahul Gaurav only for all legal purposes, Vide Affidavit dated: 10-02-2026 sworn before Notary H sridhar Rao, Bengaluru-64

I, MEENAKSHI Ramachandran, W/o Ravi Narayanan Subramaniam, Residing at No. 431, 3rd Main K R Garden Bank Colony, Murugeshpalya, Bangalore North, Vimanapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560017. Have Changed My Name from Meenakshi Ramachandran to Meenakshi Narayanan. Vide Affidavit Dated 10.02.2026 before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed. Bengaluru

I, ASIF Ulla Khan, S/o Ibrahim R/o Ward No.27, Behind Rehman Masjid, Shanthi Nagar, Chintamani, Chikkaballapur-563125 have changed my name to Asif Ulla vide affidavit dt: 12.02.2026 sworn before Notary Ramachandrappa.C, B'luru

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I, INAVOLU Manga Rajitha, changed my name after marriage to Bukkapatnam Tirumala Rajitha. Same is notarized on 10/02/2026 via Affidavit #IN–KA77501775600401Y. My ID proofs carry the new name, which can be B.T. Rajitha and Bukkapatnam Tirumala Rajitha

PERSONAL
THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING

Thankyou for favours received - RVS

TENDERS

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14, Kerala
Ph: 0487- 2459841, 2459842, 2459807,
E-mail : purchase@oushadhi.org
P/106/2025-26 Date: 12-02-2026

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited for the supply of **I) Raw Materials** for the period **01-04-2026 to 30-09-2026 and II) Containers & Packing Materials** for the period **01-04-2026 to 31-03-2027.** Tenders can be downloaded from the website **www.oushadhitender.com.** For more details, please visit our website **www.oushadhi.org** or contact our Purchase Division at Kuttanellur.
Thrissur (Sd/-) Managing Director

District Mineral Foundation Trust
Angul, Odisha, PIN-759122
Tele: 06764-230745/E- mail: dmfangul@gmail.com
Development and Welfare of Mining Affected Areas & People

Notice No. 286 **Corrigendum Notice** Date : 10/02/2026

Ref.: EoI No. - 1099 / DMFT dated 20.12.2025.
Corrigendum Notice No-82 dated 12.01.2026

The details of the corrigendum / revision made in the terms & conditions of the EoI for **"Empanelment of Central /State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for carrying out various civil works executed by District Administration, Angul under DMFT Angul"** have been issued. Interested PSUs are requested to download the EoI documents and corrigendum notices from the website: www.angul.odisha.gov.in. The last date for receipt of the bid document has been extended upto 25.02.2026 (05.30 P.M.). Documents are to be submitted through Speed Post / Registered Post (India Post) only. Other terms and conditions will remain same.

Sd/- Collector & Chairperson-cum-Managing Trustee, DMFT, Angul
30001/14/2526 OIPR-30001/30027/1/25-26/0001

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
WWM-P-V. Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-P)-V.V/AEE-2/AE/07/2074/2025-26 Date : 10.02.2026 (2nd Call)	Rs.21,97,000/- / Rs.50,000/-	19-02-2026 upto 5.00 p.m.	20-02-2026 at 5.15 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-P) V. Valley.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

South West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/5634/2025-26 Date : 11.02.2026 (4th Call)	Rs.70,81,099/- / Rs.1,41,700/-	20-02-2026 upto 4.00 p.m.	21-02-2026 after 4.05 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-1).

Office of the Chief Engineer (Central), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

(WWM)TV	BWSSB/EE(WWM)TV/PB/2163/2025-26 Date : 09.02.2026 (3rd Call)	Rs.47.72 Lakhs / Rs.0.95 Lakhs	19-02-2026 upto 4.00 p.m.	20-02-2026 at 4.10 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM)TV.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO5584/25-26

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajanagara - 571313

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
No. 34/2025-26/ Dated : 09-02-2026 (Two Cover System)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, **Chamarajanagara** invites tender in co-ordination with e-procurement portal platform, Bangalore. Tender format as per **KW-3** through e-procurement under the Head of Account **Education Department** for **Chamarajanagara** Taluk. Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online Date: **12-02-2026 to 05-03-2026 upto 16.00 hours.** Last date for clarifications/queries on tender **Date: 07-03-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.** date of opening of technical bid of the tender **Date: 09-03-2026 after 17.00 hours.** After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as belows.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Contractor Eligibility
1.	ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ನ್ಯಾ. ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಕೊಠಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ಸುತ್ತಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	75.00	-	62297.00	Class-III & Above

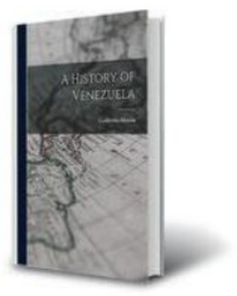
For more details visit website : htpp://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajanagara **(Ph. : 08226-223019)** during office hours.

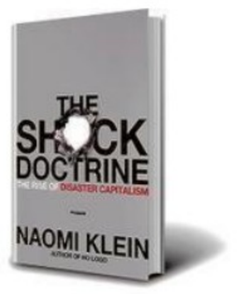
AE Phone No. : 8073339806
No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:702:2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PRED Division, Chamarajanagara

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

BIBLIOGRAPHY





Under siege: Police officers stand guard during a protest in Caracas, Venezuela, on February 10. REUTERS

Trump's Venezuela attack a footnote in West's history of imperial plunder

Writers argue why Latin American underdevelopment should be seen as a structural byproduct of western development, of mainly Britain in the 17th to the early 20th centuries, and the U.S. from the 19th century onwards

Suhit K. Sen

In even the most liberal western commentary, U.S. President Donald Trump's invasion of Venezuela presages the destruction of a rules-based international order, which itself presumes that nations are equal. It's actually a footnote in the bloody and barbarous history of the colonial subjugation and rapine of the world by the 'West'.

Latin America has been savagely pillaged for over half a millennium, beginning with Christopher Columbus's landing in 1492. What followed was a genocide in which the autochthons were either killed or enslaved to work at extracting their own natural resources for the benefit of Europe.

'Civilising' mission

The magnificent civilisations of the Mayans, Aztecs and Incas were razed as European 'civilisation' was transplanted in its place. In *A History of Venezuela*, Guillermo Morón recounts this history from an unabashedly Eurocentric perspective, lauding the theft of a country and a continent as a civilising mission in which well-intentioned priests and benevolent conquistadors brought the fruits of European enlightenment to savages stranded on the lowest rungs of the civilisational ladder.

There are references to cruelties, but those remain in metaphorical parentheses. There is a recognition that the native civilisations played some role in the shaping of Venezuela, through cultural intermingling and miscegenation. But Morón's perspective prevents him from recognising forced assimilation as just another face of barbarous extermination or banishment to the margins.

Morón's history of the 19th and 20th centuries, independence from Spain and since, notes the preponderance of dictatorship over democracy in Venezuela. But since he can't see the structures of colonialism/imperialism and neocolonialism/neo-imperialism, he attributes this to the temperament of the people. Nor can he recognise, in the underdevelopment of the region, the structural role of colonialism and neocolonialism.

Indictment of colonialism

Eduardo Galeano makes up for these lacks in his searing indictment of colonialism in *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*. Framed in dependency theory, Galeano's story sees Latin American underdevelopment as a structural byproduct of western development, of mainly Britain in the 17th to the early 20th centuries, and the U.S. from the 19th onwards.

But Galeano's is not a bloodless accounting of political economy. It is a rich history of peoples that takes readers on a journey from the barbarities of Francisco Pizarro, the illiterate pig-breeder who was given Spanish imperial licence to forage for empire, to the slick boardrooms in U.S. metropolises which provoked and financed coups and massacres every time a Latin American dispensation tried to forge a path to the development of its nations and peoples. Galeano notes with satisfaction the efforts of the Cuban revolutionaries to construct not just an independent economy that worked for all the people, but a just society that was bound by the ties of fraternity and cooperation. It also notes the manner in which U.S. corporate interests funded the coup d'état through which Augusto Pinochet overthrew the legitimate socialist government of Salvador Allende. The U.S. state generously provided training to the putschists.

Coups, and aftermath

Naomi Klein provides agonising details of the manufactured coup in *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. In its quest to subordinate and exploit Latin America, the U.S. propped up the bloodiest of dictators who were willing to do its bidding. The British did the same in the 19th century and till World War II destroyed its empire and made it a second-rate power.

The development of the core of the world capitalist system, based on the export of the infinitely squeezed surplus value of the peripheries, which is precisely what keeps them underdeveloped and immiserised, required draconian comprador regimes that would keep people – labour power – terrorised and industries denationalised. Galeano shows wonderfully through theory and human stories how metropolitan economic centres plundered natural resources and labour to first fire capitalism and then extend it.

The Venezuela story

Gregory Wilpert takes the Venezuelan story forward to 2006, providing a critical account of Hugo Chávez's attempts to break free of the stranglehold of the capitalist-imperialist system and build a national economy and society that worked for the poorest. In *Changing Venezuela by Taking Power: The History and Policies of the Chávez Government*, he concluded that while the 'Bolivarian' project was a beacon to the world on account of the possibilities of democratic socialism it contained, it was incomplete, and beset by internal contradictions and external besiegement, again stoked by the U.S. state. There was no unambiguous hope, Wilpert concluded presciently, that the revolution would bear fruit.

There were three main arenas in which Chávez and his party promoted participatory democracy: politics, society and the economy. In trying to remould the political system as more people-centric, Chávez introduced a new constitution in 1999. It made provisions for more accountable governance by including two more branches for auditing, introduced referenda for legislation and recall, which were unsuccessfully deployed against him, and decentralised power to communities. In the economic sphere, the Chávez dispensation gestured at workers' role in managing industries, promoted the cooperative movement, nationalised some industries, including partially the oil sector, though he failed to curb the dependence on oil, which kept the economy vulnerable to sudden shocks. In the social and economic sector, the Chávez administration made a major break by providing constitutional guarantees for women and indigenous people. He also expanded urban and rural land reforms to give entitlements to the poor, buttressing these with reform of the state health and educational systems.

The failure of the Venezuelan way, as compared to the Cuban path, can be explained largely by geopolitics. Cuba had the benefit of a bipolar world and thus Soviet assistance; in Chavez's unipolar world of U.S. hegemony, there was just the unremitting 'enemy action' of the hegemon and its allies, and no source of succour. And fifth columnists like Maria Corina Machado at hand to derail the experiment. This prompted an authoritarian turn.

For the moment, though, another western capitalist assault has won another battle, hopefully not the war humanity must wage.

The author is a historian and journalist.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the life of Abraham Lincoln on his 217th birthday

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Lincoln was elected from the newly formed Republican Party. To which party did he belong before that?

QUESTION 2
Lincoln was very good in a contact sport and is enshrined in the Hall of Fame for that sport. Name the sport.

QUESTION 3
What is the relevance of the phrase 'You sockdologizing old man-trap' in the life of Lincoln?

QUESTION 4
If the famous President's memorial is in Washington DC, where is his resting place?

QUESTION 5
Which national holiday did he establish in 1863 during the Civil War?

QUESTION 6
On May 22, 1849, Lincoln was given Patent No. 6469 and is the only U.S. President to have a patent. What did he devise?

QUESTION 7
Apart from Kansas, which two States were admitted to the Union during Lincoln's presidency?

QUESTION 8
What does the landmark 13th Amendment, passed by Congress shortly before Lincoln's death, deal with?

Visual question:
Name this legendary English scientist who was born on the same date and year as Lincoln.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. India won gold in this team sport in the first Asian games held in New Delhi. **Ans: Football**
2. Australia beat Germany in the final of this world cup held in India in 2010. **Ans: Hockey**
3. Name the player who won his first title beating Viswanathan Anand in 2013 in Chennai. **Ans: Magnus Carlsen**
4. This person won the race when India last hosted a Formula 1 race on this circuit. **Ans: Sebastian Vettel; Buddh International Circuit**
5. India is preparing to host the Commonwealth Games again here in this year. **Ans: Ahmedabad; 2030**
Visual: Name this Manchester City and England star. **Ans: Phil Foden**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Arun Kumar Singh| Abhiroop Bose| Yeshu Pandey| Syed Sufyan Kirmani

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the expression "red carpet welcome?" (Prof. C. Venkataramaiah, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh)
When you are given a "red carpet welcome" or the "red carpet treatment", you are given special treatment on your arrival at some place. You are treated as a guest of honour. As the expression suggests, a thick red carpet is usually rolled out when someone who is considered important visits a place.

When Nelson Mandela visited India, he was given a red carpet welcome. The famous film star was rather disappointed that he wasn't given the red carpet treatment. I was quite surprised that they gave me a red carpet welcome.

The question is, why a red carpet and not a carpet of a different colour? In the old days, the colour red was always associated with honour. Important people wore red robes. For example, the robe that a king wore was always red. The colour red was also associated with magic; fairies were always shown wearing red caps. This sense of red meaning something important is retained in the expression "red letter day". People often refer to important or special days as "red letter days".

Preethi says that 21 October is a red letter day because that's the day she arrived in America.

Scholars claim that it was during the French Revolution that red began to acquire a negative meaning. The people who killed all the nobles during the revolution called themselves "red republicans". Nowadays of course communists are referred to as "reds".

What is the difference in meaning between "stationary" and "stationery"? (Ankit R. Vyas, Chennai)
When an object remains "stationary", it does not move, it stands still.

The train remained stationary for several hours. The truck hit a stationary car. How did Promod manage to run into a stationary bus?

"Stationery", on the other hand, refers to items usually associated with writing – pen, pencil, paper, etc. The secretary informed me that we had run out of stationery.

Could you tell me where the nearest stationery shop is?

Both "stationery" and "stationary" are pronounced the same way. The first two syllables are pronounced like the word "station". The "e" and "a" in the suffix "ery" and "ary" are pronounced like the "a" in "China". The main stress is on the first syllable "sta".

What are goose pimples? (Santhana Krishnan, Vellore, Tamil Nadu)
The pimples that a teenaged goose gets are called goose pimples! Just joking! Do you remember the last time you got terribly scared about something? Usually when someone gets scared, the hairs on their skin stand up and the skin begins to develop small bumps. In fact, the skin begins to look like it is covered by a series of dots. These bumps that you get when you feel scared, excited or cold are called goose pimples. They are also called "goose flesh" and "goose bumps".

Published in The Hindu on July 27, 1999.

Word of the day

Presentiment:
a feeling of evil to come

Synonyms: foreboding, premonition

Usage: *The lawyer had a presentiment that the judge would dismiss the case.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/presentimentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /prɪˈzɛn.tɪ.mənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Newborn's body found in garbage dump

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hoysala patrol staff have registered a case after the body of a newborn baby boy was found in a garbage heap on Seshadripuram Main road on Tuesday morning.

According to the complaint lodged by Jagadish S., PSI attached to Hoysala-4, the police received a message through the 112 control room around 9.09 am on February 10 regarding a suspected body lying in a garbage dump. The information was relayed based on a call from a person identified as Balakrishna Nayak, GBA Marshal, who informed the authorities about the body.

Acting on the alert, the police conducted a preliminary inspection. The body was reportedly in a decomposed and swollen condition, with the umbilical cord still attached, indicating that the baby had been recently given birth to.

A case has been registered.

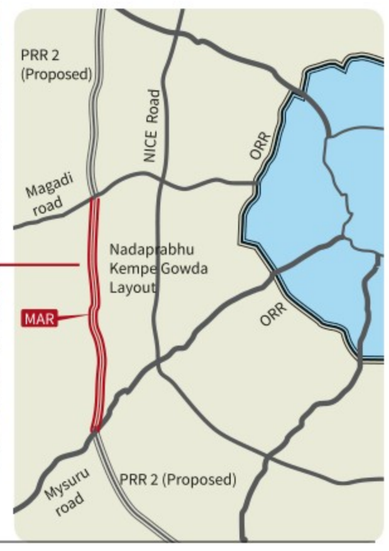
MP pushes for Crafts Village near Channapatna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lahar Singh Siroya, MP in Rajya Sabha, urged setting up a Crafts Village (Shilpa Gram) near Channapatna to support, preserve, and promote the GI-tagged Channapatna wooden toys. "The Bangalore-Mysuru express highway has disturbed their heritage and trade ecosystem for a while now," he added while raising the issue in Rajya Sabha. He urged Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to positively respond to this idea as it falls in his home district.

MAR promises relief from traffic, but concerns at entry, exit points remain

Major Arterial Road is set to open by March-end; it connects PRR-2 and will be named after Karnataka's former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna



Major Arterial Road passing through Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda Layout, connecting Magadi Road.

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's Major Arterial Road (MAR), a 10.76-km stretch passing through Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL), is expected to be opened by the end of March as construction nears completion, said P. Manivannan, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

While the stretch is expected to ease pressure on interior city roads, both ends of the road are likely to become bottlenecks, according to BDA officials and the Bengaluru Traffic Police. These bottlenecks are the result of flaws in the initial design, for which the BDA is now exploring alternatives.

What is the project?

The MAR will connect Mysore Road (National Highway) and Magadi Road (State Highway) and will run parallel to NICE Road. The 10.76-km stretch will form part of the 54-km Peripheral Ring Road-1 (PRR), which will connect Hosur Road and Tumakuru Road via Bannerghatta Road, Hosur Road, and Magadi Road.

Initially expected to cost ₹465 crore, the revised estimation is ₹588.79 crore.

BDA sources said the MAR will be named after former Karnataka Chief Minister and Union Minister S.M. Krishna.

Once operational, the stretch will mark several firsts for the city: the road will be 100 m wide (over 320 ft.) and will comprise 10 lanes, including a six-lane main carriageway (three lanes on each side), four-lane service roads (two on each side), dedicated cycling lanes, and walkways with utility ducts beneath them. The service lanes and main carriageways on both sides will be separated by 27.5-m-wide boulevards.

Passing through a residential layout (NPKL), the road will be toll-free and will connect the north, northwest, and western parts of the city. The northern and western outskirts are expected to benefit significantly. It will serve as a lifeline for nine NPKL blocks spanning 4,043 acres and for commuters from south Bengaluru.

"It will ease congestion in the northern part of the city, as it will be a better option for heavy vehicles travelling from north to west Bengaluru. It will reduce traffic on interior city roads by diverting vehicles," a senior BDA engineer said.

Congestion is inevitable

However, concerns over convergence points remain. "MAR is 100 m wide, while Magadi Road is only about 30 m wide. When all vehicles converge at this point, elongated congestion is inevitable," a BDA official said.

According to Bengaluru Traffic Police officials, Kadabagere Cross on Magadi Road remains congested during weekends and peak hours.

Adding to the problem is a convention hall located about 200 m from the junction, which worsens congestion on event days. The MAR joins Magadi Road exactly at this junction.

Addressing issue

To address this, the BDA is exploring options to divert traffic via Seegehalli Road and assess whether congestion can be eased within NPKL.

"We are planning to mandate compulsory left turns where traffic meets Magadi Road, move ahead for 300 m, and take a U-turn for commuters travelling towards Byadarahalli. Traffic towards Tavarekere can proceed straight," the official said.

At the Mysore Road junction, two major structures, the railway track and the Challaghatta Metro station, limit traffic management options. Initially, traffic will be allowed to flow as it is.

The Kommaghatta-Archakara Badavane Road via Hosa Byrohalli is proposed to be widened to ease congestion. In the long term, a cloverleaf interchange has been planned at the Mysore Road junction to connect PRR-2.

These issues stem from shortcomings in the initial planning. "The project began in 2017, when there were fewer components. With the addition of multiple factors over time, the design now appears flawed," a BDA official admitted.

2 children run over by school bus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A CCTV grab of the accident in Bengaluru which left two children dead,on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two young children were killed when a school bus knocked down their scooter near police quarters at Thanisandra in Hennur Traffic Police Station limits on Tuesday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Varsha, 2, daughter of CAR constable Naganagouda, and Banu, 4, daughter of Mr. Naganagouda's elder brother.

Banu had come to her uncle's house from Raichur only four days ago as he was planning to admit her into a school in the city. According to preliminary information, Mr. Naganagouda was riding a scooter to buy milk from a shop, and the two children were with him. The accident occurred near the Thanisandra police quarters when a school bus, while taking a turn, knocked down the scooter.

The children, who were seated on the scooter's floorboard, fell onto the road and came under the wheels of the bus, and died on the spot. The entire incident was captured on the CCTV installed in a nearby house. Mr. Naganagouda sustained minor injuries in the accident and has been admitted to hospital.

The Hennur traffic police conducted an inspection and arrested the school bus driver, identified as Mareppa, 45, charging him under death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving.

10 stolen bikes recovered in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mahalakshmipuram police recovered 10 stolen bikes worth ₹3.5 lakh in the city. Two juveniles involved in the theft were nabbed and later handed over to their families.

According to the police, the accused allegedly stole two-wheelers parked in front of houses during night hours. One of the accused was nabbed when a patrol team from Mahalakshmipuram Police Station was on night rounds near 8th Cross, Andhrahalli Road. The suspect was taken to the station for questioning after he was found moving suspiciously on a bike.

During sustained interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed that he, along with his friend, who is also a juvenile, used to break the locks of two-wheelers parked in front of houses at night and steal them from different parts of the city. He further revealed that nine of the stolen bikes had been hidden in a vacant place at Kamalanagar with the intention of selling them. Based on his information, police recovered the vehicles.

Police said the accused's associate, a 17-year-old juvenile, was summoned to the station along with his mother. After inquiry, it was confirmed that he was involved in the offences. He was counselled and handed over to his mother as per legal procedures.

With this, the police have detected seven two-wheeler theft cases reported at Mahalakshmipuram, Basaveshwaranagar, Byadarahalli, Byatarayanapura, and Kamakshipalya police stations. The owners of three other recovered bikes are yet to be traced.

Newspaper vendors' federation urges CM to set up welfare fund

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of the Karnataka State Newspaper Vendors' Federation met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday at Shakti Bhavan, urging him to establish a welfare development fund for newspaper vendors in the upcoming State Budget.

The delegation highlighted the financial hardships and challenges faced by vendors across Karnataka.

After listening to their concerns, the Chief Minister assured them that the proposal would be considered in the Budget.

The members met K.V. Prabhakar, Media Advisor to the Chief Minister, and submitted a memorandum. Federation president K. Shambuling, general secretary Sangam Suresh, and representatives from various districts were present.

'Racefor7' on Feb. 22 to create awareness on rare diseases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Organisation for Rare Diseases India (ORDI) on Wednesday announced that its annual awareness run, Racefor7, will be held on February 22 in observance of Rare Disease Day.

Addressing a press conference, medical experts, patient advocates and industry representatives highlighted the persistent challenges faced by India's rare disease community, including delayed diagnosis, high treatment costs and limited access to specialised care.

Prasanna Shirol, co-founder and executive director, ORDI, said that while awareness and policy developments such as the National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021, marked progress, the emphasis must now shift to sustained implementation.

He stressed the need for timely diagnosis, comprehensive care, and equitable access to therapies, backed by sustainable national funding and stronger research investment.

Meenakshi Bhat, head and director of the Centre for Human Genetics, said historically, rare genetic disorders were largely approached from the standpoint of early diagnosis and prevention. However, following the 2021 policy, attention has increasingly turned towards treatment, Ms. Bhat said.

"Therapies are available for only about 5% of the 7,000 known rare disorders, and many are expensive and imported. Going forward, India must prioritise the development of indigenous and affordable treatments. Where therapies are unavailable, clinicians and scientists must collaborate to create new solutions," Dr. Bhat said.

Novel treatment strategies

She announced that the Centre for Human Genetics, with support from the Karnataka government, has established the Institute of Advanced Genome Editing and Gene Therapy to develop novel treatment strategies.

The annual awareness run brings together patients, families, doctors, researchers, students, corporates, and citizens in solidarity with the rare disease community.

This year's event aims to expand public understanding, promote early diagnosis and referral, and advocate for improved access to treatment and care.

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Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
भारत सरकार
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राष्ट्रीय सूचना विज्ञान केंद्र (एनआईसी) वेतन स्तर-10 (₹56,100 - ₹1,77,500) में वैज्ञानिक-'बी' (समूह 'ए', राजपत्रित) के पद पर सीधी भर्ती के लिए इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है।
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From Page One

'Interest of institutional lenders can't outweigh right of owner over stolen gold ornaments'

Even assuming that the petitioner-company granted gold loan without knowledge of theft, such absence of knowledge does not elevate its contractual interest above the statutory power of investigation, or the proprietary right of the true owner of the gold ornaments, the court said.

"Stolen property does not acquire immunity by passing through a commercial transaction," the court said, while pointing out that "criminal procedure is not subordinated to commercial convenience."

Comply with notice

The IIFL is under a clear statutory obligation to comply with the notice issued under Section 94 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) by the police and to produce the gold articles forthwith for the purposes of investigation and eventual restitution to the rightful owners, in accordance with law, the court made it clear.

If the investigating officer is satisfied that the gold pledged with IIFL are the ones stolen from the bank, seizure of those ornaments under Section 106 of BNSS would be not only lawful but proportionate and necessary, the court said while clarifying that the IIFL's interest, if any, remains subordinate to criminal law imperatives and cannot be used to obstruct seizure of stolen property.

State introduces online scrutiny system for revenue courts

The Karnataka government has put in place a 15-point online screening measure to tackle the problem of some revenue courts misusing their quasi-judicial powers by taking up cases that are beyond their jurisdiction

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Karnataka, which showed the way in reducing pending revenue cases, has now embarked on an initiative to streamline the functioning of revenue courts. It has taken measures to tackle the problem of some revenue courts misusing their quasi-judicial powers to support irregularities by taking up cases that are beyond their jurisdiction.

The government has put in place a 15-point online screening measure to prevent revenue courts from overstepping their jurisdiction.

Middlemen involved

"The verification of pending cases by the government showed that some Assistant Commissioner's courts had admitted cases beyond their jurisdiction by usurping the jurisdiction of civil courts to regularise irregularities, perhaps due to the involvement of middlemen," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told *The Hindu*. "When we analysed the legacy (long-pending) cases, we realised that a large number of them were actually not in the domain of revenue courts at all. Our officers had admitted these cases in collusion with middlemen or petitioners," the Minister said.

Krishna Byre Gowda

In some cases, the proper authority for petitioners to approach was civil courts and in some others, there was no way that the revenue courts could have admitted them as they pertained to illegal measures, he noted.

"For example, if a person has illegally sold another person's property, it will have to be rejected during the process of mutation (process of updating land records to reflect a change in ownership). But old cases have shown that some revenue courts of Assistant Commissioners would admit the cases and issue direction to the authorities concerned to proceed with mutation as per the sale deed without going into merits," he explained

He said that about 10,000 acres of government land were lost as they were passing orders in favour of those who have encroached upon the government land. "This was one of the reasons for proliferation of revenue layouts as orders were being given to issue khatas without survey sketch," he said.

Stating that many of these courts were being run "like kangaroo courts", he said there was gross misuse of quasi-judicial powers. The Minister said that to ensure justice, the Revenue Department has put in place a system of online checklist that scrutinises cases at the admission stage itself.

How it works

The scrutiny made mandatory for the AC's courts will have a 15-point checklist for which the ACs will have to tick either "yes" or "no" boxes online with digital signature for authentication. Even a single "no" will reject the case for being admitted. Each of these questions are designed to affirm that the case legally falls within the jurisdiction of the revenue court.

In addition to this, the government is also experimenting with livestreaming revenue courts. "We have done this on a pilot basis in Bengaluru South ACs court. The feedback is positive," he said.

Pendency now

On the pendency of revenue cases, Mr. Gowda said the present dispensation had reduced the pending cases before tahsildar's courts from 10,774 in May, 2023, to 488 now.

While the tahsildar's courts are supposed to dispose of cases within three months, the AC's courts are supposed to do so within six months.

As many as 30 special ACs have been appointed to dispose of legacy cases, he noted.

Fact sheet

Why the reforms
- Many AC courts had admitted cases beyond their jurisdiction
- Such cases should have gone before civil courts or not fit to be taken up
- Several parcels of government lands were lost due to their orders
- Misuse of quasi judicial powers helped in proliferation of revenue layouts

What has been done
- Online scrutiny to prevent admission of such cases
- Process involves 15-point checklist to be digitally signed by Acs
- Live-streaming of revenue court proceedings on a pilot

Pendency

Tahsildar's courts
May, 2023 (10,774), now (488)

AC courts
May, 2023 (73,624), now (11,605)

Revenue Dept. plea to High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Revenue Department has made a proposal to the Karnataka High Court, urging it to take up the auto entry of court orders in RTCs on the lines of revenue courts.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda pointed out that presently the revenue courts were issuing digital orders which were automatically being reflected in the RTCs in real time.

"Earlier, the orders issued by the revenue courts would have to be produced by the petitioners to reflect them on RTCs. However, as part of revenue reforms, the revenue courts are now issuing them in a digital format that would be automatically brought forward for entry into RTCs," he noted.

He said the Revenue Department has now proposed to the Karnataka High Court authorities, stating that it would provide access to a designated officer of the court to login to the system to enter orders of the High Court and civil courts in the RTC. "Like we have given login access to ACs and DCs, we have proposed to give similar access to a designated officer of the court," he said. Talks are on, he added.

High Court defers cross-examination of witnesses in murder case

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The court wanted 'to prevent exposure of the defence strategy that may enable other witnesses to tailor their testimony'

In a ruling reinforcing fair trial rights of the accused persons in criminal cases, the Karnataka High Court has directed a trial court to defer cross-examination of a prime witness in a murder case till the examination of remaining witnesses "to prevent exposure of the defence strategy that may enable other witnesses to tailor their testimony."

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing the petition filed by Ravindra Kumar and Manoj Kumar Sahani, both natives of Bihar, who are accused in the case of murdering Chotu Kumar, also from Bihar, during a quarrel in 2023 in Surathkal police station limits in Dakshina Kannada district. The victim had succumbed to injuries.

Application rejected

A sessions court in Mangaluru in June 2025 rejected their application filed under Section 231(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C), for deferring cross-examination of prosecution witness (PW)-1 till the examination of seven other witnesses.

The sessions court had cited potential delay in completion of trial, and difficulty in getting the PW-1 from Bihar again for cross-examination, and possible witness intimidation. Section 231(2) of Cr.PC gives power to trial court judges "to defer cross-examination of any witness until any other witness or witnesses have been examined".

The High Court emphasised that "discretion under Section 231(2) of Cr.PC is not ornamental but purposive, representing statutory recognition that fairness of trial is a substantive guarantee flowing from Article 21".

Citing the Supreme Court's judgment on examination of multiple witnesses deposing on the same set of facts, the High Court said that "premature exposure of the defence strategy may enable subsequent witnesses to tailor their testimony, thereby imperilling them the fairness of trial."

Multiple witnesses

The High Court noted that in the present case many witnesses are relatives and their neighbours, who had given identical statements to the police.

The apprehension of the accused that early cross-examination would lay bare their defence cannot be brushed aside as fanciful. Such apprehension is not only plausible, but judicially recognised, the court said, while pointing out that the sessions court had overlooked a fundamental question whether denial of deferment would prejudice the defence.

'Stop raising issue of leadership change'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Visibly irritated by repeated questions about a possible leadership change in the government, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday asked the media to stop raising the issue repeatedly. "Can't you ask anything other than this (leadership change issue)? It has been three months since you started this. Please don't ask the same thing again," he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Responding to queries about Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's brother D.K. Suresh's remarks regarding an informal power-sharing arrangement, Mr. Siddaramaiah maintained that the party high command would take the final call.

"The high command is aware. They will decide. I will abide by their decision. How many times should I tell you this?" he said.

The Chief Minister emphasised that both he and Mr. Shivakumar would abide by whatever decision the Congress high command makes. "Whether it is me or Mr. Shivakumar, we should abide by the high command's decision. The matter is left to them. You repeatedly ask the same thing. Don't you have anything else to ask?" he added.

When reporters clarified that they were seeking his response to Mr. Suresh's statement, he said, "Ask those who make the statement."

Earlier in Bengaluru, Mr. Suresh expressed confidence that Mr. Siddaramaiah would honour his word, hinting at a power-sharing formula.

Meanwhile, when asked in Delhi about when he would become Chief Minister, Mr. Shivakumar responded, "Time will answer all the questions."

Cong. legislators to tour Australia, New Zealand

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid the ongoing tussle over a possible leadership change in the ruling Congress, a dozen party legislators are set to embark on a two-week tour of Australia and New Zealand beginning February 16.

The delegation, led by Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh, will travel to the two countries from February 16 to March 3. Sources within the Congress said that the MLAs travelling are largely considered loyalists of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The legislators include H.D. Thimmaiah, Hampanagouda Badarli, B. Devendrappa, Yashwanthrayagouda V. Patil, M.B. Nagaraja, J.T. Patil, Allamaprabhu Patil, C. Puttarangashetty, Basanagouda Badal, A.R. Krishnamurthy, Basanagouda Turuvihal, and N.H. Konraddi.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the MLAs and MLCs were travelling at their own expense.

Pre-Budget meetings held

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday held a series of pre-Budget meetings, including one on measures to tackle regional imbalance. Among participants in the meeting was economist M. Govinda Rao, who headed the Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee (2026).

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

P RAMIAH (92), Retired Chief of Bureau, The Hindu, Bengaluru passed away on 10-February-2026. Address : No.295/12/1, 7th Main, 16th Cross, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru 560080. Contact: 9448431049

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. SGITO/e-Tender/Bus(48)/Cathlab(12)/Analyser(14)/2025-26 Date: 11.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11, invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the e-procurement portal of GOK for The Following:-

Sl. No.	Description	Last date for Tender Submission
1	Procurement of College Bus	27.02.2026 upto 4:00 PM
2	Supply of Automated Protein Analyser for RA and CRP	27.02.2026 upto 4:00 PM
3	Conversion of Modular O.T into Hybrid Cath Lab Suite for Peripheral Interventions	16.03.2026 upto 4:00 PM

The Tenderers can download the documents from:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ on or after 12.02.2026. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director,
DIPR/CP/5593/CCL/2025-26 Tender Inviting Authority

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Under Taking)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KBJNL, MBC O&M DIVISION
Chigarahalli Tq. Jewargi Dist.Gulbarga-585310
NO. KBJNL/MBC/D/PB-1/2025-26/748 Date:10.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement portal only)

Reference : 1)Tender Notification, No-746 Date:10.02.2026, 2)Tender Notification, No- 747, Date:10.02.2026.

On behalf of Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL,MBC,O&M Division, Chigarahalli Tq. Jewargi, invites short term percentage basis tender from Respective registered Contractors for the works stated below as per KTPP act. One work from Saving grant of clouser & special repair works i.e Indent No:2715 (in One/Single cover), Amount put to tender is **Rs.1.73 lakhs**. EMD is **Rs.3700.00** and Another work i.e Maintenance of Head work MLIS-II for the Year 2025-26 & 2026-27 i.e Indent No:2713) (Two Cover system), Amount put to tender is **Rs.79.59 lakhs**. EMD is **Rs.1.60 lakhs**.

Calendar of events: Sl.No. Detail Process : 1) Request for e-tender documents : From 11.02.2026 to 19.02.2026 upto 5.30 pm, 2) Submission of completed e-tender documents : On 19.02.2026 upto 5.30 pm, 3) Opening of Technical bid : 21.02.2026 at 11.30 am.

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from; http;//www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Any clarification may please be taken from the undersigned one during the office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, MBC O&M Division,
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1070/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity Chiagarahalli.585310.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client, Hemanth Kumar S/o late Masthi Gowda @ Chikkanna, intend to sell the below mentioned property urgently.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of a residential plot bearing site number 37/8 new khatha number 37, PID Number 37/8/8, Srigandhadakaavalu, Sunkadakatte Daakhale, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring 3000 squar feet East to West 50 Feet North to South 60 Feet, bounded on the:

East by : Land owned by Rajajinagar Co-operative Society
West by : Land owned by Muttahanumaiah
North by : Road
South by : Property owned by Jayalakshmamma

S.A. PARTNERS Advocates,
No.71, Old No.337, 1st Floor, 66th Cross, 12th Main, Rajajinagar, 5th Block, BANGALORE- 560 010
Ph-9538512456 / 9611334334

PUBLIC NOTICE

This to inform the general public that my client **Sri. Sathish J**, is intend to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its present owners **Smt C. Padma** W/o S Ashwathnarayana, **Smt Jayanthi C,** D/o of Late Chandrashekariah, **Smt B. V. Lalithamba** W/o C Narahari, **Sri C Ramesh,** S/o Late Chandrashekariah, **Smt K. S. Malavathi** w/o of Late C. Balakrishna, **Smt Shantha Chandrasekharaiah** W/o Venkataram Manohar **Smt. C. B. Dharini ,** D/o Late C. Balakrishna, **Smt. Lakshmi Chandrashekaraiah,** D/o Late Chandrashekariah.

Any person/s having any objection in relation to the above sale transactions or claim over the schedule property or any portion thereof in any manner or any encumbrance, could lodge the same via email legal@thestartupzone.in or by registered post to aforesaid address**, on or before February 22, 2026** hereof preferably along with copies of all the documents being relied upon by him/her/them.

In the event that no objections/claims are raised from any person/s within the stipulated time above, we will proceed with the above sale transaction to purchase the schedule property without any further reference to such claims (if any) and no further claims shall be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of the Mixed Use Building Constructed on **Site Bearing No.896/50/102,** situated in 14th Cross Road, Mahalakshmi Layout Entrance, Bengaluru City, Nagapura Ward No. 67, 560086 and measuring East to West 4.50 Meters and North to South 6 Meters including Ground, First and Second Floor

East by : Site No. 896/49
West by : Site No. 896/51
North by : Site No. 896/43
South by: Road

Putta Sathwik, Advocate
Founders Counsel & Co.,
C/o SCGB Solutions Pvt. Ltd, No.32, 32nd Cross, Jayanagar 7th Block, Bengaluru-560070. M: 9480363788

ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಲುದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ನಂ.2 ಹಾರಂಗಿ ಬಲದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹುಣಸೂರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ– 571 105.
Ph: 08222-252211 Fax: 252211 Email: eeharangi@yahoo.co.in
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 09/2025–26, ದಿ: 09.02.2026

ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ KTPP ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–1999 ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW-1 ರನ್ವಯ 2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು, KW-4 ರನ್ವಯ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು, KC-4 ರನ್ವಯ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಹ ವರ್ಗದ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕಡೆಯ ದಿ: 18.02.2026 ಸಾ:4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 19.02.2026ರ ಸಾ:4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಯಾವುದಾದರೊಂದು ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp ನಿಂದ ದಿ: 09.02.2026 ರಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ನಂ.2 ಹಾರಂಗಿ ಬಲದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹುಣಸೂರು
DIPR/DDMYS/1632/KSMCA/929/2025-26

Government of Karnataka.
(PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPTARTMENT)
Office of the Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division Bidar.
No: EE/PRED/BDR/TS-2/2025-26/2296 Date: 10.02.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers,for 28 works approved under various schemes as per KW-01,02,03 & 04 in One & Two Cover System. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum **Rs.2,53,397.04** (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Seven and paise four only) & Maximum **Rs.150,59,921.77** (Rupees One Crore Fifty Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty One and paise seventy seven only) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on **11.02.2026 to or before 16.00 hours up to 19.02.2026** Technical Bid will be opened on 20.02.2026 & Financial Bid will be opened on 23.02.2026 respectively. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.(Work Indent No:-20804/Call-2,23755/Call-2,23759/Call-2, 22346,21597/Call-3, 21596/Call-3,21595/Call-3,21594/Call-3,21592/Call-3, 21105/Call-3,21104/Call-3, 23317/Call-2, 23310/Call-2, 24166,18498/Call-2, 24169, 24168, 24172, 24174, 24475, 20179, 20178, 20177, 20176, 20184, 20183, 20182 & 20181).

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Bidar/329/KSMC&A/2025-26 P.R.E.Division Bidar.

A.P. Ministers get threat letters from suspected Maoists

Rajulapudi Srinivas
VIJAYAWADA

Four Ministers in Andhra Pradesh have received threat letters, purportedly from the CPI(Maoist), the banned Left wing extremist party, warning them of dire consequences.

Those who got the letters are Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, Minister for Mines and Geology Kollu Ravindra (both from the TDP), Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh (Jana Sena Party), and Health Minister Y. Satya Kumar Yadav (BJP).

Security stepped up

Following this, the police stepped up security for the four Ministers and at the Assembly, where the Budget session is under way.

Mr. Durgesh lodged a complaint with the Thullur police on Wednesday. "The police have launched an investigation," said Guntur Range Inspector-General of Police Sarvasrestha Tripathi.

Guntur district Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal told *The Hindu* that the Ministers received the letters by post on Tuesday. "The letters carried a mobile number. It was found that the number was registered in the name of a sarpanch in Khammam district of Telangana," Mr. Jindal said.

"We suspect it to be the handiwork of some pranksters. However, we are investigating the issue from all angles," he said.

Court flags 'inconsistencies' in Ayyappa meet audit report

HC seeks explanation from Travancore Devaswom Board and inputs from govt. officials; move comes amid allegations of irregularities in accounts of the event, tax payments and tender norms

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday sought an explanation from the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) about the alleged inconsistencies in the conduct of the Global Ayyappa Sangamam held at Sabarimala in September 2025.

The event had been organised by the TDB in association with the Left Democratic Front government.

A Bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V. and K.V. Jayakumar noted that the monetary value of certain items, such as *aravana*, *appam*, *vibhuti*, *kumkum* and sandalwood, given to devotees and participants at the event had not been accounted for in the book of accounts. The court directed that the relevant inputs be obtained from the Kerala State Audit department.

The Global Ayyappa Sangamam was aimed at showcasing Sabarimala as a global pilgrim centre. LEJU KAMAL

An independent auditor's report said the TDB was responsible for the preparation of the financial statements relating to the event. The report highlighted certain 'inconsistencies' that the TDB ought to explain before the court, the Bench said.

Interim order

The court had through an interim order given the go-ahead for the event and issued a set of directives aimed at maintaining the sanctity of the temple and the environment, and ensuring financial transparency. The order said detailed and transparent accounts should be maintained regarding the cost estimates for the event, including for travel and accommodation, and the contributions from sponsors. The accounts were to be further audited.

The court directive comes amidst alleged inconsistencies in the GST and other tax payments. Although ₹5 crore was the estimated expenditure for the event, over ₹6 crore was spent, the report says.

The observations of the Bench came on a plea initiated by the court on its own based on the audit report. The hearing on plea has been posted after 10 days. *(With PTI inputs)*

ED summons former TDB secretary, intermediary in Sabarimala gold case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has issued notices to former Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) secretary S. Jayasree and Kalpesh, an alleged intermediary, in the Sabarimala gold theft case. They have been asked to appear for interrogation at the Kochi office of the ED next week.

The ED has also summoned actor Jayaram for interrogation next week over his alleged association and suspected financial transactions with the prime accused in the case, Unnikrishnan Potti. This was following circulation of videos showing the actor participating in a puja organised in Chennai in 2019 by Mr. Potti with the artefacts taken from the temple for gold plating.

Ms. Jayasree had allegedly made corrections in the minutes of TDB documents, and Mr. Kalpesh had handed over gold from Smart Creations, a Chennai-based firm where the gold plating of the temple artefacts was carried out, to the Bellary-based gold merchant Govardhan.

Meanwhile, the Kerala High Court-appointed special investigation team (SIT) probing the case has approached the Supreme Court opposing the anticipatory bail plea of Ms. Jayasree. While denying a similar plea, the High Court had observed that Ms. Jayasree's role is "well made out" prima facie.

The Kochi ED unit had filed the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act last month.

Telangana civic polls see 73% turnout; counting tomorrow

P. Laxma Reddy
HYDERABAD

Polling for elections to the urban local bodies (ULBs), covering 113 municipalities and seven municipal corporations, passed off peacefully across the State on Wednesday, barring a few sporadic incidents such as allegations of cash distribution, minor clashes, and technical glitches in EVMs.

According to the State Election Commission sources, 73.01% of votes were polled. The Gram Panchayat (rural local bodies) elections held in December 2025 recorded a voter turnout of over 85%.

Polling was conducted in 2,582 wards across 116 municipalities and in 414 wards across seven municipal corporations.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy voted at the ZP Boys High School in Vikarabad district, his home constituency. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka voted in Madhira, Khammam district.

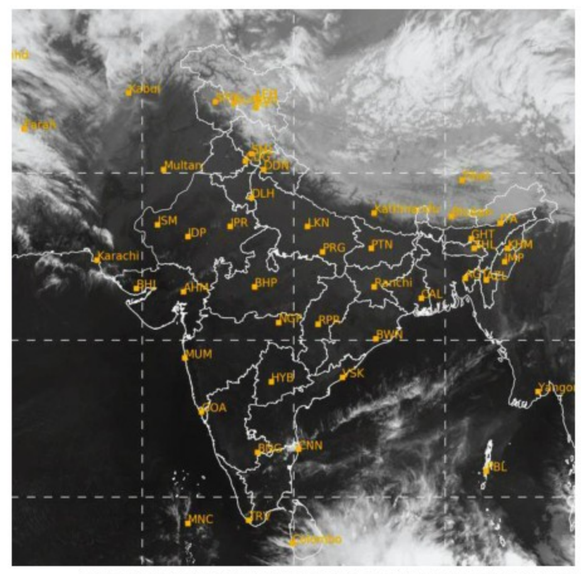
Elections were held for 2,569 wards, while the candidates in 12 wards across 116 municipalities were already declared unanimous winners.

Counting of votes will begin at 8 a.m. on February 13, with results expected the same day.

The election of chairpersons and vice-chairpersons in municipalities, and Mayors and Deputy Mayors in corporations, is scheduled for February 16.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Dense fog likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh. Squally weather with wind speed 35 to 45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph likely to prevail over some parts of southwest Bay of Bengal adjoining to east Equatorial Indian Ocean

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.2	14.5	Kozhikode	—	35.5	24.5
Ahmedabad	—	31.7	15.8	Kurnool	—	33.0	19.1
Aizawl	—	27.5	8.2	Lucknow	—	26.7	12.1
Allahabad	—	29.2	11.5	Madurai	—	32.8	20.1
Bengaluru	—	27.7	15.4	Mangaluru	—	34.4	21.8
Bhopal	—	30.2	13.6	Mumbai	—	33.6	19.2
Bhubaneswar	—	32.7	16.4	Mysuru	—	29.8	16.0
Chandigarh	—	25.4	9.4	New Delhi	—	27.5	13.2
Chennai	—	28.5	21.4	Patna	—	26.6	13.6
Coimbatore	—	31.3	19.6	Port Blair	—	31.5	26.0
Dehradun	—	27.0	9.6	Puducherry	—	29.7	20.4
Gangtok	—	17.1	8.4	Pune	—	33.5	19.2
Goa	—	34.4	20.8	Raipur	—	32.8	16.0
Guwahati	—	29.8	13.7	Ranchi	—	27.2	10.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	16.0	Shillong	—	20.6	8.0
Hyderabad	—	29.8	17.2	Shimla	—	18.2	8.6
Imphal	—	27.1	6.3	Srinagar	1	9.5	2.8
Jaipur	—	28.8	16.9	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	22.4
Kochi	—	32.2	24.8	Tiruchi	—	30.7	20.4
Kohima	—	20.2	8.6	Vijayawada	—	30.5	20.0
Kolkata	—	29.7	14.6	Visakhapatnam	—	30.3	19.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.36	..54	74	 91	...141	
Bengaluru	...6	..31	15	... 180	...131	
Chennai	...8	5	52	... 151	...337	
Delhi	...9	268	91	... 349	...367	
Hyderabad	...5	..10	60	 91	...115	
Kolkata	...9	125	39	... 280	...175	
Lucknow	.11	..44	41	... 236	...161	
Mumbai	.35	..94	41	... 152	...133	
Pune	..—	..95	60	... 260	...219	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..81	14	... 129	...164	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 384 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Pampore, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

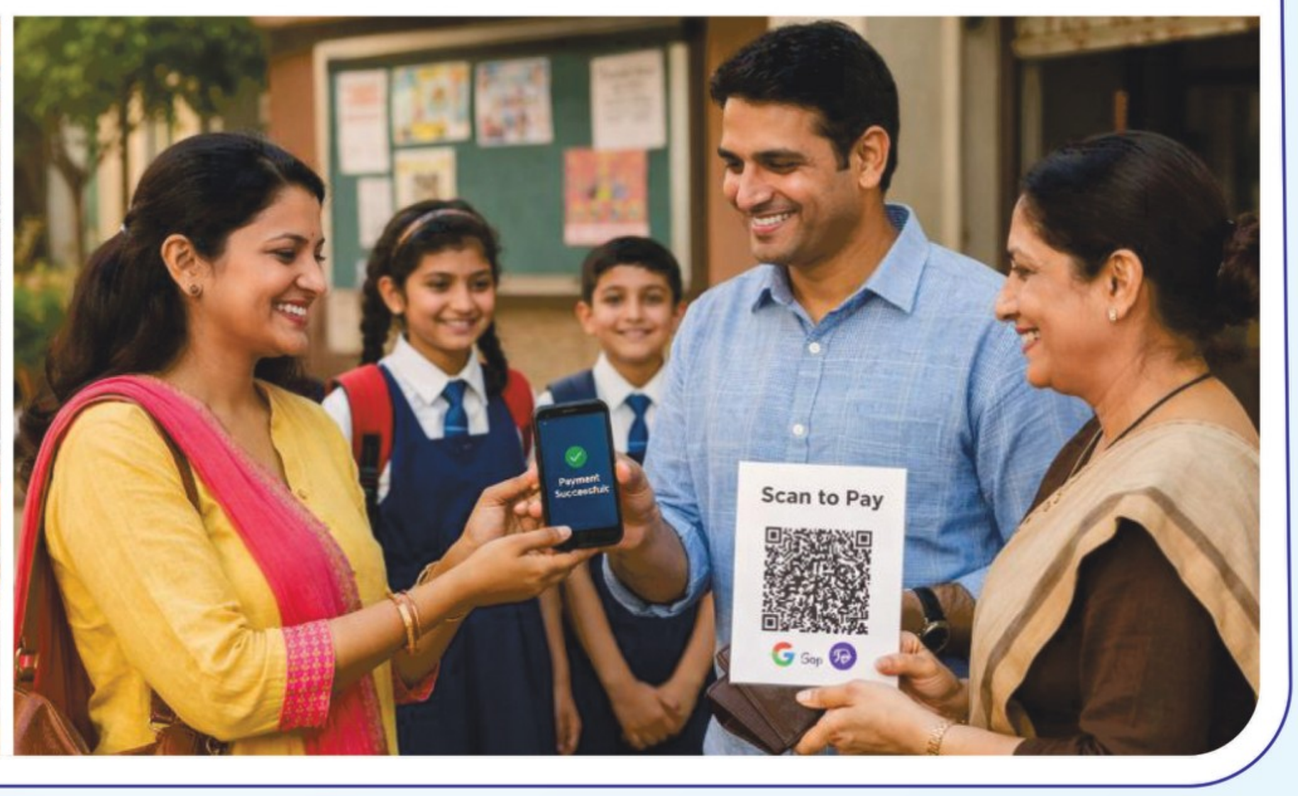
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Government of India
Ministry of Statistics and
Programme Implementation
सत्यमेव जयते

DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

GROCERIES TO SCHOOL FEES

What we pay is reflected in the Consumer Price Index



CBC 39101/13/0004/2526

Our participation in National Sample Survey ensures accuracy in CPI and Inflation data

CPI Base Year being revised to 2024 with updated item basket and price data collection from 2860 markets across the country

Release Date 12 February 2026

Please cooperate with NSO enumerators when they come for survey. Your identity will be kept confidential.

mospi.gov.in @GoIStats /goistats GoIStats Ministry of Statistics & PI

M BG-BGE

Reining in a bigot

Assam's CM's rhetoric is to divert attention from governance deficits

Assam is among the States scheduled to hold Assembly elections in the months ahead. The northeastern State is also one of India's laggards in many critical socio-economic markers – its HDI, per capita income, gainful industrial employment numbers, and enrolment rates in higher education are lower than the national average, while it has many poor health indicators. Any political leadership of such a State would face a clear and fundamental choice in governance. One path would be to identify systemic lacunae and bridge gaps in health, education, income and employment for every citizen, earning the goodwill of the electorate and seeking continuation in office on the strength of performance. The alternative path is more insidious – the creation of bogeymen through imaginary enemies and the stereotyping of entire communities. By doing so, demagogues seek to bypass the hard work of governance, inciting the electorate through polarisation and ensuring that political discourse remains mired in communal division. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of the BJP has chosen the latter path, deploying incendiary rhetoric that targets the Bengali-origin Muslim community, framing it as a "demographic threat" and a "matter of life and death" for the indigenous population, and escalating to what can be described as calls for economic persecution – urging citizens to underpay Muslim rickshaw-pullers so that "they suffer" and "leave Assam". He has accused the community of "fertilizer jihad", blamed them for urban floods, and coined a lexicon of manufactured hatreds, all of it in pursuit of what H.L. Mencken once described as the cynical art of politics "to keep the populace alarmed... by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary".

In the CPI(M)/CPI's petition filed in the Supreme Court, Mr. Sarma's statements have been documented to demonstrate not isolated political rhetoric but a sustained pattern of communal targeting that is politically distasteful and constitutionally unlawful. As the petition rightly argues, his statements deserve scrutiny from two lenses. First, the constitutional framework that concerns the Chief Minister's oath of office, fundamental rights of all citizens and the Preamble's guarantees of secularism and fraternity. Second, that these statements are liable to prosecution on offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Representation of the People Act. The Court has through its cumulative effect doctrine, in *Amish Devgan* and *Tehseen Poonawalla*, suggested that a CM's speeches carry the weight of the State's authority which makes communally polarising language in them even more damaging as it is used by someone who controls the police apparatus. The Court should not dismiss it as an election-eve political manoeuvre, and recognise it for what it is – a test of whether its own directions on hate speech carry any meaning when the offender holds the highest office in a State.

Young and Nabin

The Bharatiya Janata Party is effecting a generational change in its leadership

Nitin Nabin, born in 1980 and the youngest person to become the National Working President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was elected unopposed. Mr. Nabin is not closely linked to the party's ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS); at present, his legitimacy largely arises from the faith reposed in him by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. His selection is linked to Mr. Shah's plans for the next general election, but larger considerations at play cannot be ignored. As a xennial, Mr. Nabin is leading the largest party in one of the world's youngest countries. He began his political career through the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), and steadily rose through the BJP ranks. Elected five times as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly from the Bankipur constituency in Patna, Mr. Nabin was also a State Minister. He held organisational positions in the BJP, overseeing its work in Chhattisgarh and Sikkim. He made a difference in both States and also won the confidence of party workers. A Kayastha from Bihar, he is known to be collegial. Within the deeply contested caste landscape of BJP strongholds, his social location and demeanour would be considered benign, which works to his advantage.

The BJP has been effecting a demographic transition in its leadership, and Mr. Nabin's elevation marks a high point in that process. Mr. Nabin is from the Hindi heartland, where the BJP is already strong. Managing the strength of the party in its current strongholds while making it more acceptable to the peripheral regions of the country will have to be his priority. The party's strategy of Hindu consolidation has not only saturated but is also creating a legion of unguided actors. The BJP is riding a tiger on the issue of communal politics, and Mr. Nabin has the unenviable challenge of disembarking from it. He was chosen President after several months of negotiations between the RSS and the BJP leadership, in which the BJP got the upper hand. The relationship between the RSS and the BJP requires delicate handling. The new President, like his predecessor, would follow the cue of Mr. Shah in organisational affairs, but he is still expected to maintain an aura of autonomy. He will be required to share credit for any success but own responsibility for any slip-up. As a young leader who potentially has several decades more of active politics ahead, Mr. Nabin must reassure his senior colleagues but cannot afford to end up becoming inconsequential in the process.

Judicial drift in the Special Intensive Revision hearings

Gautam Bhatia

is a Delhi-based lawyer

In the first week of February 2026, in an unprecedented event, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, appeared before the Supreme Court of India in the ongoing hearings around the conduct of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, which has been taking place in multiple States across India.

The Chief Minister's arguments were focused on certain procedural infirmities that were causing hardship to the residents of her State. Her intervention led to the Court passing a slew of directions on February 9, ostensibly seeking to mitigate some of these hardships. However, in the course of the hearing, the Court also made a statement: that no impediment to the SIR would be allowed across any of the States.

Core constitutional challenge not decided

This statement is baffling, because in making it, the Court appears to have pre-judged the most fundamental issue before it – an issue that goes to the heart of the Court's own role as the primary organ of constitutional adjudication. Challenges to the SIR were first filed before the Court in July, when it was announced for the State of Bihar.

Among other things, these petitions questioned the constitutionality of the SIR itself. Months have passed, with SIRs announced in multiple States, and the challenges have multiplied. The Bihar election has come and gone (November 2025), with the Bihar SIR effectively having become a fait accompli. The Court has held multiple hearings, where it has, in effect, played the role of an administrator, passing directions on issues such as whether or not the Aadhaar card can be used as an identification document. However, the core constitutional challenge has not been decided, and as the Court's observations now show, the fait accompli seems to have become permanently enshrined, with any future judgment serving only to act as a retrospective validation of existing facts on the ground.

It is worth remembering that in a constitutional democracy, the Court's primary role is to ensure that other state organs comply with the Constitution, and not to transform itself into an administrator. However, the Court's conduct in the SIR case is not new: while the constitutionality of the Aadhaar programme was challenged in 2012, it was only in 2018 that a final judgment was passed, by which time Aadhaar had effectively become a fait accompli, too big to be undone. In the intervening six years, the Court had passed various orders about where and how Aadhaar could be used or demanded, but had not touched the constitutional challenge before it. The repetition of this pattern in the SIR case reveals a normalisation of the Court moving away from its role as a constitutional court, and adopting the role of the administrator. This is unfortunate.

> The top court's conduct in the SIR case sees it moving away from its role as a constitutional court and adopting the role of administrator

There are significant issues

Indeed, the SIR process has raised certain significant constitutional issues. Many of these issues turned upon the question of power: while the Representation of the People Act (India's umbrella election law) authorises the Election Commission of India (ECI) to conduct a special revision for "any constituency or any part of a constituency", and for reasons to be recorded, there is a fundamental question about whether this very specific power is also a carte blanche authorisation to conduct State and nation-wide SIRs. The wording of the section seems to imply that its purpose is a targeted and focused exercise meant to correct for distortions that might creep in in certain specific places. By contrast, the present SIRs are dragnet, large-scale revisions of the rolls that, in effect, turn them into citizenship determining exercises. Added to this is the fact that electoral rolls already exist. Thus the ongoing SIRs amount to an exercise where the entire populations of States are called upon to freshly establish their citizenship and their right to vote, without any pre-existing cause for suspicion. The constitutional question then turns upon whether the ECI can simply operate on this mass presumption of non-citizenship, and force people to prove their rights from scratch.

In 1995, in *Lal Babu Hussein and Others vs Electoral Registration Officer and Others*, the Court had held that it could not. There again, the ECI had sought to effect large-scale removal of names from the voter rolls, acting on the suspicion that in certain constituencies there were many non-voters on the rolls. The Court struck down this exercise, and in the directions that it passed, made it clear that notices for removal from the rolls would have to be directed at specific individuals, and also a disclosure of the reason for suspicion that the individual in question was not a citizen of India.

As noted above, the present SIRs completely invert that basic process. Instead of issuing notices to specific people that it reasonably suspects are non-voters, the ECI now requires everyone to come and prove that they are voters.

It is crucial to note that multiple reports have come in from various States about arbitrary deletions and of individuals having to run from pillar to post to prove that their citizenship does not exist in a vacuum. They are the product of this fundamental inversion of the state-citizen relationship. The other troubling impact of the SIR exercise is that the wholesale revision of voter rolls has brought into play the notorious Form 7, which allows any person to "object" to the inclusion of any other person in the electoral roll. There have already been widespread reports about the misuse of Form 7 to have people struck off the rolls, en masse, from multiple States.

An accentuation of disparities

Finally – and this was something highlighted by the West Bengal Chief Minister as well – in a country with vast material inequalities, and disparities in access to the State, documentation requirements operate asymmetrically, and, in particular, impact the vulnerable and the marginalised (people at the intersection of the axes of caste, poverty and gender). Indian Courts have long articulated an equality jurisprudence that is cognisant of material and socio-political discrimination: a process that accentuates, rather than mitigates, these disparities, violates basic constitutional principles.

It should be obvious that these are not mere "administrative" glitches that can be corrected by administrative tweaks, in the manner in which the Court has been doing for the past eight months. Rather, the specific problems of voter deletions and disenfranchisement that are being brought to the Court on a regular basis are symptoms. They are downstream from the actual issue, which is the manner in which the ongoing SIRs invert the relationship between the state and the individual, and leave the latter effectively at the mercy of the former. This is a question that goes to the heart of the constitutional order. It cannot be remedied through a mere administrative fix. Rather, it must be addressed from the perspective of a constitutional framework that genuinely affirms the dignity and participatory rights of every individual, refusing to reduce persons to mere cogs in the machine of state and administrative efficiency.

The CPI base revision exercise measures a slice of life

Saurabh Garg

is Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India

Inflation, one of the most closely watched macroeconomic indicators, is something that most people feel in daily life in their routine household expenses. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) captures this reality by tracking the prices of goods and services that households regularly consume, turning everyday experiences into an official measure of inflation. For the common man, the CPI is like a quiet mirror of daily life capturing, inter alia, the changing cost of basic needs such as food on the plate, rent for the roof over the head, and fuel for the journey to work.

More than a simple number

Though it appears as a simple number, it speaks for households, guiding income and social security adjustments so that life's essentials remain within reach. CPI-based inflation is also the primary indicator for the Reserve Bank of India to help guide it in decisions such as interest rates and inflation control. Therefore, when the CPI reflects reality, policies respond better to what people are truly experiencing.

Inflation is not just about prices going up. It is about how these price changes affect household budgets. That is why making sure that the index reflects current consumption patterns is just as important as tracking the prices themselves. This is the context in which India's ongoing CPI base updation from the year 2012 to 2024 must be seen.

Since the last base revision, the economy has changed significantly, urbanisation has grown, services have expanded, digital platforms have changed buying habits, and household spending has diversified.

The CPI 2024 series has, therefore, been updated using the latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey of 2023-24. As people's preferences and expenses changed over time, the importance (weightage) given to different goods and services in the CPI has also been adjusted.

> It will better trace how prices shape daily life and policy decisions

Items on which households now spend more have been given greater weight, with less weight for those that account for a smaller share of spending. This ensures that the CPI measures price changes that really affect household budgets. The consumption basket has also been updated to reflect emerging trends, such as growing spending on services, driven by rising incomes and changing lifestyles.

Updating the way that the CPI is calculated is just as important as updating what it measures. The revised CPI is more closely aligned with international standards while retaining features specific to India. This makes it easier to compare India's inflation with other countries. From the perspective of households, this matters because it helps policymakers understand how price changes in India fit into the global picture, without losing sight of what affects daily life.

Data collection for the CPI has been upgraded to keep pace with how people shop and spend. While traditional market surveys still track prices, particularly of food and other essentials, the 2024 framework has introduced that captures online prices for items such as telecom services, airfares, and certain other services.

A wider database

The adoption of computer-assisted price collection in the new series has reduced manual errors and allowed real-time checks, improving the quality and timeliness of price data. Quality and timeliness of the CPI matter because these shape decisions that touch everyday life, such as how high loans are, how much savings earn, and how rising prices influence household budgets.

In the new base year, the CPI draws more on official data from government sources, railfares, postal charges, fuel prices, and items sold through the public distribution system. This means that these numbers are captured with greater precision by mitigating the chances of errors and biases that can occur in market surveys. This integration of survey data, administrative records and digital price sources represents a marked improvement over earlier practices and provides a more reliable picture of how prices are changing.

The massive institutional effort behind a base revision exercise of this scale is also worth noting. It involves coordination across field offices, statistical divisions and national and international expert bodies.

The process involves extensive scrutiny of methodology, testing of alternatives and consultation with economists and domain specialists. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has engaged with expert groups, international organisations and stakeholders to ensure that the changes are transparent, easy to understand and methodologically sound.

Even with updates to the basket, weights, and data sources, the CPI keeps its core purpose, capturing how prices change from a household's point of view. This continuity matters because it lets us compare prices over time. In other words, the index is being improved without losing the connection to everyday life, so that it remains a reliable guide for policymakers.

In context

The CPI reminds us that behind every statistic lies the lived experience of millions, and that numbers, ultimately, are about people. It quietly traces how prices shape daily life and inform policy decisions. Through the ongoing base revision exercise, MoSPI has ensured that the CPI continues to be accurate, up-to-date, and consistent over time, so that it remains not just a number, but a true mirror capturing the realities faced across the country.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parliamentary proceedings

The episode around the pandemonium in Parliament arising from the Speaker of the Lok Sabha not allowing the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha to read extracts from an unpublished book and the subsequent move by Opposition MPs to submit a notice seeking a removal of the Speaker for allegedly conducting the business of the House (Inside pages, February 11) are unfortunate events. The Congress and other Opposition parties should have shown more maturity and sorted out the issue rather than resorting to such an extreme step. There is also another issue — of the Deputy Speaker presiding over the proceedings. Unfortunately, for some inexplicable reason, the House has failed to elect a Deputy Speaker. Will the ruling National Democratic Alliance at least now take the initiative to fill up the post?

K.R. Jayaprakash Rao,
Mysuru

The notice of a no-confidence motion against the Lok Sabha Speaker marks a significant moment of institutional friction. The allegations levelled against him suggest a breakdown in parliamentary neutrality that is essential for a healthy democracy. Parallel to this, the controversy surrounding an unpublished book raises critical questions about transparency and censorship.

Aarchi Verma,
Rajpura, Punjab

Serious national issues should not be reduced to personal insinuations against tall political leaders. Matters such as the unresolved border dispute with China and the India-U.S. trade deal require transparent and honest discussion in Parliament. Curtailing debate weakens democracy; engaging with it strengthens governance.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

The conduct of Members of Parliament on the floor of the House and outside is cause for concern. There is a flouting of decency and decorum, a violation of rules, shouting matches and aggressive placard parades. No party is above blame. The day is not far off when MPs may indulge in fisticuffs.

S.V. Venkatakrishnan,
Singapore

Cricket economics

News that Pakistan is set to withdraw the boycott of the T20 World Cup match with India after parleys with International Cricket Council officials is like a political thriller played behind closed doors ('Sport' page, February 11). Backroom negotiations and the intervention of Sri Lanka Cricket along with financial implications and sanctions have resulted in Pakistan's 'U' turn. The price had become too high forcing Pakistan to recalibrate, and politics had to give way to commercial interests.

Dr. Thomas Palocaren,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Corrections & Clarifications

In a report, "Opposition MPs submit notice seeking removal of LS Speaker" (Inside pages, February 11), a sentence was: "Under Article 94C of the Constitution, the Speaker can be removed from office by resolution passed by the House through a simple majority." The procedure to remove the Speaker is through effective majority, which is absolute majority of the effective strength of the House (total strength minus the number of vacant seats). Article 94(C) says: "may be removed from his office by a resolution of the House of the People by a majority of the then members of the House...."

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The Constitution enters the sanctum

Manuraj Shunmugasundaram

DMK spokesperson and advocate practising before the Madras High Court

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Advocate practising before the Madras High Court

Two recent judgments of the Madras High Court – one concerning the Thiruparankundram Deepathoon and the other relating to the rights of the Thenkalai sect to recite hymns at the Kanchipuram Varadaraja Perumal temple – have brought to the fore the role of the judiciary in adjudicating religious disputes. That these matters have reached the High Court is revealing on multiple levels. First, it tells us that courts have a constitutional role in deciding religious disputes. Second, it demolishes the argument that temples are private spaces where the court or the state cannot intervene. Given the growing number of such cases, the law around religion has taken centre stage like never before.

Shift from civil rights disputes

Over a hundred years ago, it was civil courts that dealt with temple disputes. In a case pertaining to entry into the Kamudhi temple in Ramanathapuram, pitched battles around civil rights to enter temple premises were fought all the way up to the Privy Council in London. In *Sankaralinga Nadan and Ors vs Raja Rajeswara Dorai and Ors* (1908), the Privy Council was called upon to decide whether the Nadar community had a right to enter the Kamudhi temple. In the pre-constitutional era, such cases around temple entry and right to co-worship were primarily regarded as disputes concerning civil rights.

In 1927, the Madras Presidency government enacted the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act to govern temples and their endowments. A slew of legislative activity followed in the next two decades, which enabled setting up of local temple committees and the auditing of temple funds which enshrined the supervisory role of the Presidency government.

All this changed when the Constitution was adopted in 1950, which introduced fundamental rights to practise religion. The freedom of worship rights in Articles 25 and 26 to worship were made applicable to individuals as well as religious denominations. However, this freedom was tempered with the requirement that rights to practise or profess religion would be subject to public order, health, and morality. This allowed the state to further regulate worship when it offended public conscience or morality.

This period ushered in a critical shift in judicial thinking. From the earlier view that these matters were civil rights disputes, the courts began looking at them from the vantage of constitutional directives. By doing so, the judiciary asserted the rights of the individual to equality and religious freedom subject to public interest restrictions. This led to the blossoming of jurisprudence around temple entry, religious freedoms, and equality in the appointment of priests. It is now a matter of debate in constitutional courts as to if and how these rights should be limited.

Nevertheless, the southern States, which belonged to the erstwhile Madras Presidency, must be credited for bringing in this jurisprudence. It started with these States enacting legislation under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act for better temple governance. These legislation and regulations, consequently, invited judicial oversight, as writ courts were called to adjudicate upon whether State intervention respected the rights of the religious denominations while safeguarding the constitutional rights of others. This led to the development of temple-related jurisprudence over the last 70 years.

The test used by courts

In developing this jurisprudence, courts have undertaken an inquiry into whether religious practices conflict with constitutional principles. For example, where there is a restriction of the entry of certain people or where a customary practice is in conflict with fundamental rights, such matters can be brought before constitutional courts. The constitutional court then undertakes the task of finding out whether such custom or practice is protected by the essential religious practice test. A creation of the Supreme Court, this test is to determine whether a particular custom or practice is essentially integral to the religion. Those not essentially religious were, interestingly, deemed to be "secular" and open to judicial guidance. Therefore, if a practice fails this test, then the court typically proceeds to issue directions in consonance with settled constitutional principles.

Despite criticism regarding its inconsistent interpretation in subsequent judgments, the courts have continued to use this test to bring a measure of objectivity to decisions by focusing on the core tenets of the religion itself. In *Indian Young Lawyers Association and Ors vs State of Kerala* (2018) (Sabarimala temple case), this approach underwent a significant consolidation when the Supreme Court held that even those practices considered essential to the religion cannot be shielded from judicial scrutiny if they are inconsistent with constitutional morality. Therefore, the law of the land is that religious freedoms are subject to constitutional morality, which in turn is founded on the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

The growing number of religious disputes before constitutional courts reflects not only ideological polarisation within and across faiths, but also the enduring role of the judiciary in ensuring that religious practices do not undermine constitutional principles. Judicial review of religious disputes, therefore, cannot be seen as an aberration but a continuation of a long-standing constitutional engagement – one that seeks to harmonise faith with the foundational principles of the Constitution.

The growing number of religious disputes before constitutional courts reflects the role of the judiciary in ensuring that religious practices do not undermine constitutional principles

A battle over the title of 'Jatipita'

The Congress and BRS spar over KCR's role in the Statehood movement

STATE OF PLAY

Ravi Reddy
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At the centre of a recent political controversy in Telangana is a symbolic but emotionally charged question: who deserves to be called *Jatipita*, or the Father of Telangana?

The immediate trigger for Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) leaders and cadres hailing party president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) as *Jatipita* was the notice served on him by a Special Investigation Team, summoning him for questioning in connection with an alleged phone-tapping case during the BRS regime. The party saw this as an insult to their leader, who they claimed had single-handedly fought with the Centre and ensured the creation of Telangana in 2014. Calling him the architect of the State, they questioned how he could be treated like a criminal.

The repeated attempts by the BRS to bestow the title of *Jatipita* on Mr. Rao did not go down well with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who launched a scathing attack on the BRS chief. "KCR is not worthy of being called the Father of Telangana. He is only a self-proclaimed fatherly figure," he said. Accusing Mr. Rao of corruption and mismanagement, Mr. Reddy said that he "looted the State and plunged it into debt." The Chief Minister argued that if anyone deserved the title, it would be either Professor K. Jayashankar or Konda Laxman Bapuji, both of whom made genuine sacrifices for the cause of statehood.

Intellectuals who have closely observed the Telangana movement – from the early agitations in 1952 and 1969 to the final push led by Mr. Rao after formation of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) in 2001 – have a different perspective. Former Telangana Joint Action Committee Convener and ex-MLC M. Kodandaram, a professor who worked closely with Mr. Rao before their fallout, said that Prof. K. Jayashankar is widely regarded as the principal ideologue of the Telangana statehood movement. Jayashankar, a former Vice Chancellor of Kakatiya University, was active during the 1952 and 1969 Telangana movements. During the final stages of the movement, he was instrumental in bringing together all sections of society and offering clarity to the long-pending demand. "He had an ability to unify the people and articulate the cause, so he was often referred to as the ideologue of Telangana, though he himself never claimed that title," Prof. Kodandaram explained.

Others such as Bhupati Krishnamurthy from Warangal, Konda Laxman Bapuji, and Prof. Keshav Rao Jadhav also played significant roles in sustaining the movement.

Prof. Kodandaram noted that after the formation of Telangana, the narrative shifted. During the annual Deeksha Diwas, celebrated by BRS cadres to commemorate Mr. Rao's fast that pressured the Centre to announce statehood for Telangana, the party began calling him *Jatipita*.

On the other hand, former BRS MP B. Vinod Kumar has strongly defended the party's position. He argued that it is common in statehood movements to honour leaders with titles such as Bapu or *Jatipita*. He said that Mr. Rao deserves recognition as *Jatipita*, since his leadership was central to the formation of the State.

Drawing parallels with Jharkhand, Mr. Kumar pointed out that Shibu Soren, founder of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, is known as *Jatipita* of the State. Soren led the movement for decades, and though Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led National Democratic Alliance government, his role in sustaining the agitation earned him that recognition.

"The agitation for a separate Telangana had a violent past. During the 1969 movement, more than 360 people died in police firing. On the other hand, KCR's stewardship in the final phase of the statehood stir was largely non-violent," Mr. Kumar said.

While the BRS cadre may feel justified in honouring Mr. Rao with the title, history suggests that such recognition cannot be manufactured through party resolutions or political campaigns. Titles like *Jatipita* endure only when they are affirmed by a broad social consensus that transcends partisan loyalties. The current controversy appears less about history and more about present-day political positioning, with both the BRS and the Congress seeking to consolidate their support base ahead of the municipal elections. Ultimately, public memory will determine how Mr. Rao's legacy in the Telangana movement is defined, or who gets to be called *Jatipita*.

Taxpayer base more than doubled in the last decade

Expansion of the base has coincided with an improvement in tax administration efficiency

DATA POINT

Chandrasekar K.

India's direct tax system has undergone a significant expansion over the last decade, marked by a sharp rise in the number of taxpayers as well as sustained improvements in administrative efficiency. Time-series data released by the Income-Tax Department indicate that this expansion has been broad-based and persistent, reflecting deeper formal participation rather than a short-lived compliance surge.

Between Assessment Year (AY) 2013-14 and AY2024-25, the total number of taxpayers, defined as persons who either filed a return of income or in whose case tax was deducted at source, increased from 5.26 crore to 12.13 crore.

This increase, which more than doubles the taxpayer base, represents a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 7.89% over 11 years, underscoring the sustained nature of the expansion. It marks one of the most important structural shifts in India's direct tax landscape since the wider adoption of the Permanent Account Number.

A disaggregated view of the data shows that individual taxpayers remain the primary drivers of this expansion. As illustrated in **Chart 1**, the number of individual taxpayers rose from 4.96 crore in AY2013-14 to 11.61 crore in AY2024-25, translating into a CAGR of about 8% over the period.

Growth was largely steady in the years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, with year-on-year increases mostly in the high single digits. The contraction visible in AY2020-21, when individual taxpayers declined by nearly 9%, coincides with the disruption caused by the pandemic. This was followed by strong recovery, with growth accelerating to double digits in the most recent assessment years, indicating renewed momentum in the expansion of the individual tax base.

While individuals dominate the tax system in scale, the expansion has not been confined to households alone. **Chart 2** shows the combined trend for non-individual taxpayers, comprising firms, companies, Hindu Undivided Families, Associations of Persons or Body of Individuals, local authorities, artificial juridical persons, and other residual PAN categories.

In absolute terms, the non-individual taxpayer base increased steadily from about 0.29 crore in AY2013-14 to nearly 0.48 crore by AY2024-25, corresponding to a CAGR of roughly 5% over the period.

Growth among non-individual taxpayers has been more moderate than among individuals, but also more stable. Year-on-year growth rates generally remained within the 4% to 7% range in the pre-pandemic years. The pandemic's impact is again evident in AY2020-21, when growth slowed sharply to below 1% before recovering gradually in subsequent years.

However, unlike individuals, the post-pandemic rebound among non-individuals has been measured, with growth stabilising at around 5% in recent assessment years. This pattern suggests that formalisation has progressed across organisational and business entities, albeit at a steadier pace than individuals.

Cost of collection

The expansion of the taxpayer base has coincided with a marked improvement in tax administration efficiency. As shown in **Chart 3**, the cost of collecting direct taxes fell from 1.36% in FY2000-01 to 0.41% in FY2024-25. The figure for FY2024-25 is provisional and may be updated later. This long-term decline has occurred despite a substantial increase in the number of taxpayers and total tax collections.

The temporary rise in the cost ratio around FY2020-21 reflects pandemic-related disruptions rather than structural weakening. Since then, the ratio has fallen to its lowest level in the available data series, indicating sustained improvements in administrative efficiency.

Several institutional and technological changes help explain these trends. Over the past decade, the tax administration has increasingly relied on digital filing systems, pre-filled returns, faceless assessments, and expanded third-party information reporting. These measures have reduced compliance frictions and enabled the system to manage a larger taxpayer base without a commensurate increase in administrative resources.

Unlike headline filing statistics that focus on absolute counts, the evidence presented here draws on taxpayer-level data, year-on-year growth dynamics, and long-term CAGR trends to assess the durability of India's tax base expansion.

Taken together, the evidence from taxpayer levels, growth rates, CAGR patterns, and collection costs points to a structural strengthening of India's direct tax system. Revenues are being mobilised from a broader cross-section of taxpayers even as administrative efficiency improves, thereby reinforcing the stability and sustainability of public finances and embedding taxation more firmly within the formal economy. This transition has important implications for revenue resilience, equity, and long-term fiscal planning nationwide.

It is to be noted that growth rates are calculated on a year-on-year basis using taxpayer headcount data.

CAGR is computed for the period AY2013-14 to AY2024-25 using unrounded values, and figures for AY2024-25 and FY2024-25 are provisional.

The writer is with the Indian Statistical Service. The views expressed are personal

Rising numbers
The data for the charts were sourced from the Income-Tax Department, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Time Series Data on Direct Taxes (FY 2000-01 to 2024-25)
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CHART 1: Number of individual taxpayers in the left-axis (represented as bars) and the year-on-year growth in the right-axis (represented as a line)

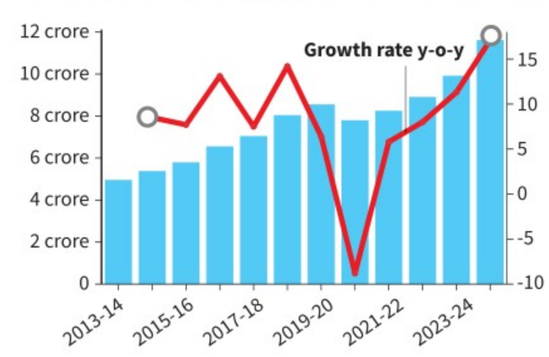


CHART 2: Number of non-individual taxpayers in the left-axis (represented as bars) and the year-on-year growth in the right-axis (represented as a line)

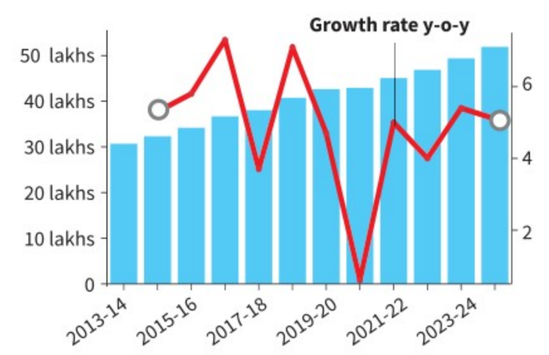
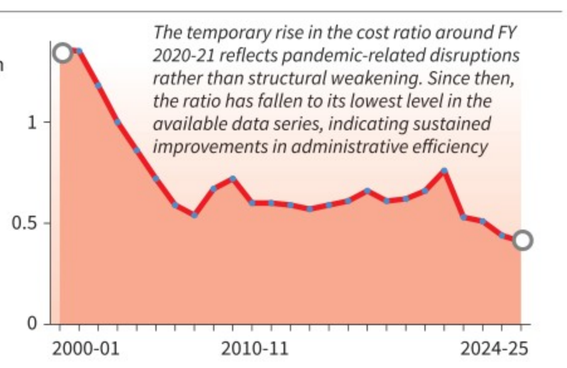


CHART 3: Cost of collection of direct taxes. Figures in %

The cost of collecting direct taxes fell from 1.36% in FY 2000-01 to 0.41% in FY 2024-25 (provisional)


The temporary rise in the cost ratio around FY 2020-21 reflects pandemic-related disruptions rather than structural weakening. Since then, the ratio has fallen to its lowest level in the available data series, indicating sustained improvements in administrative efficiency
1
0.5
0
2000-01
2010-11
2024-25

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 12, 1976

Attendance in offices: directive reiterated

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Feb. 11: Following the special drive in Government offices to ensure punctuality by officials and the finding that there is still some absenteeism, the Department of Personnel in the Cabinet Secretariat has asked all the Ministries to take care that the earlier instructions about attendance in Government offices are fully complied with.

The Department of Personnel is heartened by the general improvement during the past few months in the "administrative ethos" of the country. Instructions are in fact being issued from time to time by the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding punctuality, promptness and integrity of Government servants. It is, however, considered essential that the improvement in administrative efficiency and the intensity of supervision should be maintained as a permanent feature of the administration.

It is brought to the notice of the staff once again that persons who hold supervisory posts will take all possible steps to ensure the integrity and devotion to duty of all Government servants under their control and authority. Smoking in the corridors by Class Four staff and playing cards outside Government offices and buildings after the lunch-hour by Government servants is declared undecorous practice "which detracts from the atmosphere of discipline".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 12, 1926

Transmitting musical composition by code

REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE

London, Feb. 11: Owing to the demand for popular songs and the necessity of lightning transmission of them to prevent smuggling between New York and London, a novel scheme for cabling melodies has been devised by the London music publishers. The method is based on an alphabetical code covering notes and time-beats which can be re-translated into music by means of a simple key. It appears that ships stewards and others recently smuggled into England new American numbers which were played publicly before they were published, while an enormous number of British tunes have still be orchestrated in America. These will now be cabled to professional orchestrators in New York.

From Page One

Centre plans rules for books by defence staff

For serving Army personnel, the rules are explicit and mandatory. Service rules and defence service regulations require prior written permission before undertaking any literary, political or remunerative activity outside official duties. Requests are routed through the chain of command and may require clearance up to Army Headquarters or the MoD, depending on the nature of the content.

Material relating to classified information, operational details, internal procedures, equipment capabilities, intelligence inputs, or issues affecting national security or foreign relations is strictly prohibited. Even fictional works may face restrictions if they closely resemble real operations or disclose identifiable details.

Maturity, judgment

Lt. Gen. (retd.) D.P. Pandey said, "When an Army person retires, he or she is as much a civilian as anyone else but the facet of Official Secrets Act remains. After retirement, it largely comes down to individual's maturity and judgment regarding what to write and how to present it. One should avoid writing on matters that are classified and not in open domain. However, retired personnel are free to express their personal opinions about politics and matters of national security. If any content falls under the Official Secrets Act, prior permission from the MoD is required."

He added that in his view, material that is already in the public domain can be written about. There is a laid-down process within the respective Services to grant permission for publication if a book mentions issues related to national interest. If any information published in a book is found to be incorrect or unlawful, there are legal provisions to deal with such infringements.

U.S. drops references to statement on trade deal

"India intends to buy more American products and purchase over $500 billion of U.S. energy, information and communication technology, coal, and other products", a line which earlier also included "agricultural" products. The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to a question on whether the government or the Indian embassy had reached out to the U.S. government to request the changes. The U.S. did not issue any statement before amending the documents available online.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Trade Representative's office deleted another entry related to the India-U.S. deal. The social media post showed a map of India including in it Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Chinese-controlled Aksai Chin. This is in line with India's official map but runs counter to the U.S.'s official maps that show the two regions as "disputed territory". The post had led to questions being asked about whether the U.S. government was changing its position in India's favour. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was asked about the map during a meeting of the parliamentary committee on external affairs on Tuesday.

Inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi found in Egypt

Within such settings, the Indian visitors seem to have followed an existing practice of leaving their names inside the tombs, they said.

The name *Cikai Korran* (pronounced 'Kotran') appears repeatedly. It was inscribed eight times across five tombs. The name was found near entrances and high on interior walls among other graffiti marks. In one tomb, it appears at a height of about four metres at the entrance, Mr. Strauch said. "The name *Cikai Korran* is revealing, as its first element may be connected to the Sanskrit *śikhā*, meaning tuft or crown. While this is not a common personal name, the second element, *korran*, is more distinctly Tamil. It carries strong warlike associations, as it derives from a root, *korram*, meaning victory and slaying. This root is echoed in the Chera warrior goddess *Korravai* and the term *korravan*, meaning king," Ms. Schmid said.

The name *korran* also came up in other finds in Egypt. It appears in *Korrapumān*, written on a sherd discovered at Berenike, a Red Sea port city, in 1995. The name also occurs in the Sangam corpus, where the Chera king *Pittānkorran*, praised in the *Purananooru*, is sometimes directly addressed as *korran*, the scholars pointed out, adding that these parallel attestations in inscriptions from Pugalur, the ancient Chera capital, dated back to the 2nd or 3rd century C.E.

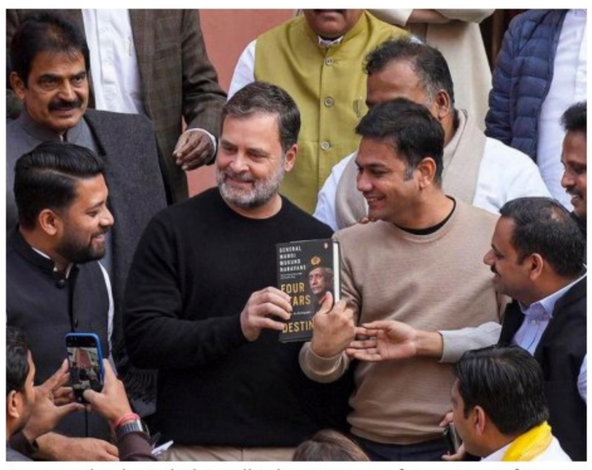
Two other individuals also left their names in Tamil Brahmi in these tombs. One inscription reads *Kopān varata kantan* (Kopān came and saw). The name *Kopān* has also been found at Ammankovilpatti in Tamil Nadu. Other Tamil names identified include *Cātan and Kiran*. "When I first identified these inscriptions, I could not believe it. Because so many people have visited these tombs over the years and nobody has identified anything Indian. I asked Charlotte whether I was mistaken," Mr. Strauch said.

K. Rajan, academic and research adviser, Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology, said the findings are significant as they shed light on the trade links between ancient Tamilagam from the Malabar Coast and the Roman Empire. He said that earlier work in Egypt had focused on the Red Sea port city of Berenike, where excavations were conducted for several years and attention has now moved to the Nile river valley.

IT Act, conspiracy charges in case over ex-Army chief book

Delhi Police seek clarification from Penguin over circulation of the unpublished book on social media; they are investigating which version of the book Rahul was seen holding in the Lok Sabha

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi shows a copy of *Four Stars of Destiny* during the Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi. PTI

The Special Cell of the Delhi Police has registered a case under the Information Technology Act and provisions related to criminal conspiracy under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in connection with the alleged leak of content from the unpublished memoir, *Four Stars of Destiny*, of former Army chief General M.M. Naravane (retd).

The police on Wednesday issued notice to Penguin Random House India seeking clarifications over the circulation of the unpublished book on social media.

A senior officer said an FIR was lodged on February 3, taking *suo motu* cognisance of reports about the circulation of the book on social media.

Investigators are probing how the content entered the public domain when formal publication clearance had not been granted.

Tracing source

Preliminary inquiries have indicated that a PDF copy of a manuscript bearing the same title is available on multiple websites. Some online marketing platforms have displayed the book's cover, suggesting it is available for sale. The police are verifying the authenticity of these materials and tracing their source.

Internal leak

Another senior officer confirmed that the publisher and General Naravane were aware of the manuscript's contents.

Investigators are examining whether the material may have been accessed during the submission and editorial processes. Given the number of personnel involved in publishing workflows, the possibility of an internal leak has not been ruled out, leading to the addition of criminal conspiracy charges.

The police are also investigating which version of the book Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was seen holding in the Lok Sabha and how he may have accessed it, if at all. The officer added that the probe could extend to multiple individuals, though no details have been disclosed regarding questioning so far due to the sensitive nature of the case.

Citing potential implications for national security and official secrets, Penguin Random House and associated platforms are likely to be examined as part of the ongoing probe.

BJP's Ritu Tawde becomes Mumbai's 8th woman Mayor

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Ritu Tawde

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Ritu Tawde took charge as the Mayor of Mumbai on Wednesday, with Sanjay Ghadi of the Shiv Sena as her deputy, in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters. Ms. Tawde is the city's eighth woman Mayor.

It was a smooth sailing for the BJP, which saw its corporator as the Mayor of the country's richest municipal corporation for the first time in 44 years.

Ms. Tawade, who became the 78th Mayor of Mumbai, said, "We are determined to implement effective schemes for women empowerment, employment opportunities for youth, care for senior citizens and for the poor and needy. Digital systems and AI will be used to provide corruption-free administration. I would like to assure you that service will be given more importance than politics." Her appointment as Mayor also breaks the 25-years-old rule of undivided Shiv Sena.

In the elections held on January 15 after four years, the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 89 corporators elected, while the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) won 29 seats, both together crossing the majority figure of 114 in the 227-member BMC house.

Following the results, the reservation lottery was drawn in which the Mumbai Mayor seat was reserved for woman.

In first visit since ethnic conflict, Manipur CM reaches out to Kuki, Meitei people in Jiribam

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh interacts with inmates of a relief centre in Jiribam, Manipur on Wednesday. PTI

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Wednesday visited Jiribam district and interacted with violence-scarred people from the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities as part of a peace-building mission.

The outreach at Jiribam, bordering the Barak Valley in southern Assam, was the first for the Chief Minister since divisive ethnic violence broke out on May 3, 2023, killing more than 260 people and displacing some 62,000.

Mr. Singh first met Meiteis staying at a higher secondary school and then interacted with Kuki-Zo-Hmars. He visited Jairalpokpi, a Kuki-Zo-Hmar village that witnessed widespread violence and arson in 2023.

The visit forms part of the State government's broader effort to foster dialogue and rebuild trust among affected communities, he said.

The Chief Minister urged inmates of the relief camps to work towards removing the trust deficit.

'We are Indian first'

"Jiribam is the gateway to Manipur and has the potential to become a business hub. For the business to flourish, peace has to come first," he said.

"Let us consider the last two years were a nightmare, let us forget it and have the courage to move forward towards peace and development," Mr. Singh said at a Hmar village.

"First, we are Indian, and then we are Manipuri. We can be Manipuri Naga, Manipuri Kuki, and Manipuri Meitei. We need to rebuild the concept of Manipuri someone is trying to destroy," he said.

The Hmar villagers assured the government their support, and urged him to take care of the needs of the tribal village, particularly the school building. The Chief Minister told the displaced people that their concerns were being addressed by the district authorities. He said the houses being constructed for the homeless among the displaced were expected to be completed by March.

Litan peaceful

No untoward incident was reported from the Litan area of Ukhrul district, where an assault on Saturday led to a localised Kuki-Naga conflict.

Nearly 40 houses were torched over the next three days, forcing many to flee to safer places.

Internet services, including broadband, continue to be suspended in the district.

Sonam Wangchuk

Cannot release Wangchuk on health grounds, Centre tells SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday pointed to phrases made by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk expressing his anxiety about departing from the Gandhian non-violent mode of struggle even as the Centre strongly objected to the court associating a person "completely anti-India" with the father of the nation. They are like "chalk and cheese", the Centre said. The exchange came after the Centre voiced disagreement with the court's proposal to reconsider Mr. Wangchuk's detention under the National Security Act (NSA) on medical grounds.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and P.B. Varale, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj said the "health facade was manufactured and synthetic".

Mr. Nataraj said the activist, detained in the Jodhpur Central Jail, was "fit, hale and hearty" and had been medically examined 24 times already over the past five months of his confinement.

Mr. Wangchuk was detained under the NSA on September 26 last year, two days after violent protests demanding Statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and 90 injured.

The Bench, referring to the Centre citing Mr. Wangchuk's alleged references to Arab Spring as a reason leading to incitement of violence, said "everybody knows about Arab Spring".

"How do you link all this to what happened on September 24 [violence]? Are you saying people sitting with him on hunger strike heard him, got up and left to commit violence?" Justice Kumar asked.

Beldanga violence: was it fair to invoke UAPA, SC asks NIA

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Every emotional outburst cannot be packaged as affecting economic security, says Justice Bagchi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday questioned the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as to whether it was "fair and just" to invoke the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) (UAPA) Act in the Beldanga violence case in West Bengal without even looking at any material or evidence, and term it a "terrorist act" affecting the economic security of the nation.

"Is it just and fair to exercise your powers like that? The case diary and other documents were not placed before you. It is a pre-decisional conclusion arrived at without looking at any material, and you say Section 15 [terrorist act] of the UAPA is applicable?" Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a member of the Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, asked the Central agency's counsel, Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju.

Violence erupted in Beldanga on January 16 following the death of a migrant worker from Jharkhand. Large numbers of people took to the streets, blocking railway tracks and a National Highway for several hours. At least 12 people were injured in the clashes, and around 30 were arrested. "Every emotional outburst cannot be packaged as affecting economic security," Justice Bagchi said.

The Calcutta High Court had, on January 20, issued various directions on the basis of petitions filed by BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari and others, including leaving it open to the Centre to conduct probe by invoking Section 6(5) of the NIA Act.

On January 26, the Home Ministry directed the NIA to take up the probe of the case. The West Bengal government had moved the top court, arguing there was no material to attract Section 15 of the UAPA. They submitted that none of the scheduled offences under the UAPA were committed.

Two-day tech summit to explore how enterprises can boost their resilience

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Government officials, academics, and industry leaders will come together at the The Hindu Group's Tech Summit 2026 on February 12 and 13 to deliberate on various issues at the intersection of technology and governance, building resilience in industry, and the challenges and opportunities from Artificial Intelligence.

Titled "Continuity Unbroken: Building the Architecture of Resilience in a Connected World", the summit's first day will focus on enterprise resilience and governance with key features being data privacy in biometric platforms, technology-led disaster recovery, evolution of next-generation governance and compliance frameworks, and cyberresilience in an AI-driven world. The second day will examine topics like AI-first digital transformation, integrated data security management, state perspectives on technology-driven economic growth, and the development of industry-ready talent for an AI-driven future.

The event will be inaugurated by G. Viswanathan, founder and Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology. He will also deliver the keynote address. Raju Vegesna, chairman and managing director, Sify Technologies, will deliver a special address.

The panel discussions will explore resilience not merely as risk mitigation but as a structural capability embedded within organisational DNA.

Dr. Viswanathan said that India had long excelled in theoretical knowledge but had often fallen short in practical knowledge. "A leading model we can draw inspiration from is Germany," he said, adding that, in Germany, candidates seeking to teach in universities of applied sciences are required to have at least five years of professional experience. Stating that VIT was one of the first institutions to have mandated that a part of every course was to be delivered by industry experts, he pointed out that VIT had ensured that industry professionals and senior leaders actively participated at various levels, including the Academic Council and the curriculum design committee.

The summit is supported by Skylar Information Technologies, KBR, Tally, and Virtusa as associate partners; G Square as realty partner; CIO as knowledge partner; MMA as industry partner: Startup Singam as ecosystem partner; Nexus as gift partner; and the Government of Karnataka as State partner.

The event will be live streamed on *newsth.live/THTSYT1*

No reduction in States' share in tax devolution, FM asserts in Lok Sabha

Minister counters Opposition, says that resources that will be transferred to the States is estimated at ₹25.44 lakh crore; Constitution gives Centre authority to collect cesses and surcharges, she adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday dismissed allegations by Opposition members that the Centre was not transferring 41% of the divisible pool of taxes to the States, as mandated by the 15th Finance Commission, asserting that the required transfers were made every year.

The 15th Finance Commission had recommended that for 2020 to 2026, the Centre should transfer 41% of its divisible pool of taxes to the States, which the Centre had accepted.

"Often, we are accused of not transferring the 41% that the 15th Finance Commission has recommended," Ms. Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha, during her reply to the debate on the Union Budget.

"I assure you, it is 41% that we have transferred to the States. We have not reduced any State's devolvable tax," she said.

The Union Finance Minister said the total resources to be transferred to the States, including the devolution and under Centrally sponsored schemes, was estimated at ₹25.44 lakh crore for 2026-27.

> This Budget has been prepared as the first Budget in the second quarter of the 21st century... So, this Budget covers a lot of issues from 2026 to 2050
>
> **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**
> Union Finance Minister

"This entails an increase of ₹2.7 lakh crore over 2025-26 and is ₹3.78 lakh crore more than the actuals of 2024-25," she said.

"The 16th Finance Commission analysed the States' share transferred by the Centre to the States from 2018-19 to 2022-23 and concluded that in each of these years, the devolution made by the Centre exactly matches the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission," Ms. Sitharaman added.

Devolution pool

She said that it was the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) that audited the Centre's finances and decided what the net proceeds of the Centre were, after subtracting from the gross tax receipts the cesses and surcharges collected by the Centre.

"Out of that, have we transferred 41% of the divisible pool, that is what should be looked at, not the gross tax revenue," the senior BJP leader said. "The Constitution gives the Centre the authority to collect cesses and surcharges."

The Finance Minister sought to counter charges levelled by Opposition members that the Centre was shrinking the divisible pool of taxes by focusing more on cesses and surcharges, which the States cannot gain from.

"The cesses and surcharges are collected for a particular purpose such as health cess, education cess, road cess," Ms. Sitharaman said. "These do not benefit the Centre, they go to the States in terms of building schools, hospitals, roads in the States."

Medium-term Budget

The Finance Minister explained why the Union Budget included several announcements that were aimed at the medium and long term.

"This Budget has been prepared as the first Budget in the second quarter of the 21st century," she said.

"So, this Budget covers a lot of issues from 2026 to 2050. We are also starting the new five-year cycle of the new Finance Commission and therefore the estimates are largely on the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission," she said.

"By doing these [longer term announcements], which are leading us towards the medium and long term, we are also continuing our push in building infrastructure," she said.

"It is not just roads and National highways, we are also looking at waterways so that the cost of logistics can come down and States that are in the hinterland will have the advantage of moving goods faster at a lesser cost," she said.

Opposition targets Centre over growing inequality and 'atmosphere of fear'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition members in the Lok Sabha expressed their concern over low per capita income, growing inequality, and unemployment, while speaking on the Union Budget on Wednesday.

"No economy can grow in an atmosphere of fear and hatred," Congress MP K.C. Venugopal said, taking part in the debate on the Budget.

Mr. Venugopal said that as many as 80 churches had been attacked during the previous Christmas season, and referred to a controversial statement by a Chief Minister targeting a minority group in his State.

"No nation can prosper when communities are divided. Today, hate is becoming a normalised situation in the country. State-sponsored terror in the name of what is proudly called as bulldozer raj has become a political tool," he said.

Mr. Venugopal flagged the issue of Indian rupee crossing the 91 mark against the U.S. dollar, unemployment rate among urban youth reaching 18%, and the top 10% of the population controlling 58% of the country's resources. He also said the rights based approach of the UPA, reflected in laws such as MGNREGA, RTI, and Forest Rights' Act, were being diluted or taken away.

House view: Lok Sabha proceedings under way during the Budget Session in New Delhi on Wednesday. SANSAD TV

"The Finance Minister will proudly speak of growth and development. But behind these claims lies these harsh realities," he said.

BJP leader Anurag Thakur targeted the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

"The electoral losses have filled him with hatred. He hates parliamentary rules, he hates the Speaker, he hates constitutional institutions, he hates the Prime Minister and now he has started hating India," he said.

In the Rajya Sabha, Opposition members flagged concerns over growing income inequality. RJD MP Sanjay Yadav said that while India was now the world's fourth-largest economy, it ranked much lower on the per-capita income scale. CPI(M) MP V. Sivadasan sought to counter the government's claims of India being a high-growth economy, arguing that wages for ASHA and anganwadi workers had not been revised for a decade.

Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale said, "The government likes to tell us we are the world's fourth-largest economy. But what it doesn't tell people is that in terms of per-capita GDP, our economy ranks 123rd."

He alleged that the Budget had become "personality-oriented" rather than policy-driven, and claimed that urban Indian youth now have lower purchasing power than young people in several conflict-hit countries.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda said economic growth alone was insufficient, stressing that employment must be central to policymaking.

No plans for distinct legal recognition for denotified tribes: Centre

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Union government is not considering any proposal for distinct legal and constitutional recognition of a category on a par with the SC/ST/OBC classifications for the denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes in India, the Tribal Affairs Ministry told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

This comes even as these communities (formerly classified as "criminal" under the colonial-era Criminal Tribes Act, 1871) are organising to push for a "separate column" in the upcoming 2027 Census forms for themselves, in the hopes of building it up into a movement for a fresh classification for communities that were once labelled "criminal".

In a meeting held on January 30, officials of the Social Justice Ministry assured leaders of the community that they will be counted in the Census.

Replying to a question from MPs Manoj Kumar Jha (Rashtriya Janata Dal) and Sandosh Kumar P. (CPI) about the issue and the government's plans for such a new classification, the Ministry said it had consulted with the Social Justice Ministry, which said, "There is no such proposal or plan under consideration."

Amid heated debate, banter between Opposition and Chair

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, led a pitched attack on the government over the interim trade agreement with the U.S., the Lok Sabha witnessed a light-hearted exchange between the Congress leader and the Chair of the House, Jagdambika Pal.

When Mr. Gandhi sought to question the government over reports referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Ministers in some recently released documents in the U.S., Mr. Pal asked him to confine his remarks to matters related to the Union Budget on which the discussion was taking place.

Mr. Gandhi responded by reminding Mr. Pal that he had been earlier in the Congress to which the Bharatiya Janata Party MP said: "Had you listened to me, you would not have been sitting on that side of the House...I am here as a presiding officer," Mr. Pal shot back.

"But we like you, sir, and we know your heart is not there. We know your heart is here," Mr. Gandhi responded.

Mr. Pal joined the BJP in 2014. He has since then represented the Domariyaganj Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh for three consecutive terms, though he was first elected to the Lok Sabha from Domariyaganj in 2009 on Congress ticket.

Over the years, he has served three terms as an MLA, and has also been a Minister in the Uttar Pradesh government. Earlier in his political career, Mr. Pal was also president of the Uttar Pradesh Congress.

NDA government has compromised India's energy security and future of farmers: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday alleged in the Lok Sabha that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government had compromised India's energy security, data, and the future of its farmers through the Indo-U.S. interim trade agreement.

Mr. Gandhi, who had not been able to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the President amid a standoff with the ruling side, used the discussion on the Union Budget to raise the pitch and said that for the first time in history, "Our farmers are facing the storm. You have opened the doors to crush our poor farmers. This is disgraceful."

Making a point: Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi speaks in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. SANSAD TV

The government was quick to respond, with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju asserting that the government would move a privilege motion against Mr. Gandhi.

'Weaponise finances'

Mr. Gandhi said the government had allowed the U.S. to weaponise India's finances against itself. "You are handing our data over. How can you even make these statements. Are you not ashamed of yourselves," he said.

He claimed that if the INDIA bloc had been negotiating with U.S. President Donald Trump, it would have said that the U.S. should treat India as an equal and not servants.

"The first thing we would say [to Mr. Trump] is that the most important asset in this equation is Indian data. If the U.S. wants to protect the dollar, it must recognise that Indian data is the biggest asset. Second thing, we would say to President Trump is that 'if you want access to it, then you will talk to us as an equal, not talk to us as if we are your servants'," he said.

"We would have told Trump that India's energy security is non-negotiable and we are going to protect our energy security," he said. "The third thing, we would have told President Trump is that 'we understand you have agricultural voter base, you need to protect farmers, but we will also protect our farmers'."

"We will not be made equal to Pakistan. If President Trump decided that Pakistan Army chief will have breakfast with him, we will have something to say about it," he said.

The scene turned acrimonious when Mr. Gandhi sought to mention certain industrialists and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, who was officiating as the Speaker, said that no names would go on record.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said Mr. Gandhi should authenticate everything he spoke, to which the Congress leader agreed.

Later outside the House, Mr. Gandhi said: "I said I will authenticate. Department of Justice case files are there in which [Union Minister] Hardeep Puri and [industrialist] Anil Ambani's names are there, There is a case on Adani ... there have been summons. There is direct pressure on the PM. Without pressure no PM can do it."

NDA leaders to file notice against Rahul for remarks on Puri

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Accusing Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of making "unsubstantiated allegations" against Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri without giving notice, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday said the ruling alliance members would file a notice against Mr. Gandhi for "breach of privilege".

"We will file the necessary notice with the Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition did not make any useful substantive contribution to the Budget discussion but only made some wild allegations," Mr. Rijiju said, soon after Mr. Gandhi's speech got over.

The Parliamentary Affairs Minister said the notice would be placed before the Chair seeking authentication of Mr. Gandhi's assertions. While Mr. Gandhi promised to authenticate what he had spoken, Mr. Rijiju said, "I know he cannot authenticate them because he lied. He lied in the House."

Hardeep Singh Puri

Minister's clarification

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Puri said he had taken over as India's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York in 2009 and remained there for eight years. "There are references to possibly three or four meetings [with Jeffrey Epstein] in eight years," he said, adding that during that time he was a member of the International Peace Institute (IPI).

"I was Secretary-General of the Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM)... the chair of this commission was a former Prime Minister of Australia. My boss at IPI, Terje Rød-Larsen, was someone who knew the infamous Epstein. As part of an IPI and ICM delegation, I met Epstein on a few occasions – three or at most four times," he said.

About an email dated November 13, 2014, released as part of Epstein Files, Mr. Puri said it was exchanged as his contacts introduced him to Reid Hoffman, the founder of LinkedIn. Then as a private citizen, he wrote to Mr. Hoffman about the immense opportunities India presented in the Internet-based economic activity.

'Minimal interaction'

Stressing that his interaction was minimal, he quoted an email exchange between Larsen and Jeffrey Epstein dated December 25, 2015, in which Epstein referred to Mr. Puri as "two-faced". "What does it mean? The man [being referred to] is not okay...," Mr. Puri said. In that email exchange, Larsen had written to Epstein: "Have you heard the saying: when you meet an Indian and a snake, kill the Indian first!"

"The Epstein files are about wrongdoing and criminal offences. They contain charges that he had an island where he took people to indulge their sexual fantasies, including charges of paedophilia, and there are victims. My interaction had nothing to do with that," he added.

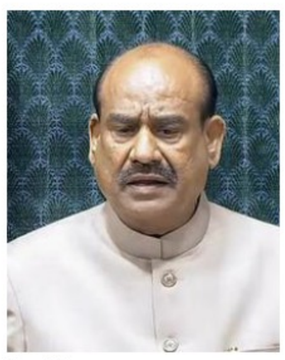
Speaker directs Lok Sabha Secretariat to correct notice seeking his removal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday asked the Lok Sabha Secretariat to correct shortcomings in the Opposition's notice seeking his removal from his Constitutional office, and proceed with the corrected notice.

The revised notice will be listed after the commencement of the second phase of the Budget Session. The second phase will be held between March 9 and April 2.

"Shortcomings were found in the notice submitted by Opposition MPs on Tuesday to remove Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla," a source in the Lok Sabha Secretariat said. "The notice referred four times to events of February 2025, on the basis of which it could have been rejected under the rules," they added.



Om Birla

Mr. Birla directed the Secretariat to have the defective notice corrected and then proceed with it. It will be taken up in the second part of the Budget Session. The first part of the session, which got under way on January 28, will go into recess on February 13.

While the Opposition's move is aimed at making a political point on the way the House has functioned, there is considerable interest in the process. Article 94 of the Constitution deals with the provisions regarding the removal of the Speaker.

On Article 94C

The Opposition notice is under Article 94C, which states that the Speaker "may be removed from his office by a resolution of the House of the People by a majority of the then members of the House".

This is interpreted as the effective majority of the House, that is, more than half of the strength of the House minus the vacancies.

"The Constitution doesn't use the word effective majority but it's meant to convey the effective strength of the House," former Lok Sabha Secretary-General P.D.T. Achary told *The Hindu*.

A minimum of 14 days' notice has to be given before a resolution seeking the removal of the Speaker can be taken up by the House, and under Article 96, the Speaker can respond to the notice for removal.

Trade impact, memorials among issues raised in RS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

During Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, members demanded proper memorial for Anushilan Samiti revolutionaries on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, curbs on Korean mobile games, and right to recall elected representatives.

Issues such as granting Constitutional status to the National Commission for Minorities and the impact of the bilateral trade agreement with the United States on soya bean farmers in Madhya Pradesh were also raised during Zero Hour.

INBRIEF

Soldier, civilian injured in two separate explosions in J&K

A soldier and a civilian were injured in two separate explosions in J&K on Wednesday. Officials said an anti-personnel landmine went off at forward post Faulad, close to the Line of Control (LoC), in Gulmarg Sector in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. One Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) was injured in the blast and was shifted to the Badamibagh Base hospital in Srinagar for treatment. In the Pir Panjal Valley's Poonch district, a rusted landmine went off and injured a civilian. Officials said Bilal Ahmad, 16, was loading sand into a tractor at Battar Nallah when the blast took place. The injured civilian was shifted to a hospital.

SC agrees to list another plea against Assam Chief Minister

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to consider listing another plea filed by four persons seeking a direction against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over a series of alleged hate speeches targeting Muslims in the State. The fresh petition was filed by former professor Hiren Gohain, former DGP of Assam Harekrishna Deka, senior journalist Paresh Chandra Malakar, and senior advocate Santanu Borthakur. On Tuesday, a Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant had agreed to list for hearing separate pleas of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and CPI leader Annie Raja seeking action against the Chief Minister. PTI

Vande Mataram to be played before National Anthem: govt.

Fresh set of guidelines issued to States and government bodies but no formal statement made by the Centre; it says when the National Song is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has said in a set of instructions to the States and government bodies that the National Song, *Vande Mataram*, should be sung or played before the National Anthem, *Jana Gana Mana*, when both the songs are played at an event.

The fresh set of guidelines were uploaded on the Union Home Ministry website on February 6, but no formal announcement or a statement was issued.

It states that whenever the official version of the National Song, around 3.1 minutes long, is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention. "However, when in the course of a newsreel or documentary, the National Song is played as a part of the film, it is not expected of the audience to stand as standing is bound to interrupt the exhibition of the film and would create disorder and confusion rather than add to the dignity of the National Song," it said.

The Ministry said the instructions were being issued for general information and guidance on the official version of the song, the occasions on which it is to be played or sung, and about the need for paying respect to the song by observance of proper decorum on such occasions.

It said that *Vande Mataram*, written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, is known as the "National Song, which is to be sung on arrival and departure of the President at formal state functions and other functions organised by the government, immediately before and after the President addresses the nation over All India Radio and television, on arrival and departure of the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor at formal state functions, when the National Flag is brought on parade, any other occasion for which special orders are issued by the Government of India".

When a band plays it

"When the National Song is played by a band, the song will be preceded by a roll of drums to assist the audience to know that it is going to be played, unless there is some other specific indication that the National Song is about to be played," the Ministry said.

The official version shall be played accompanied by mass singing on the unfurling of the National Flag, on cultural occasions or ceremonial functions other than parades. The mass singing could be arranged by having a choir of adequate size, suitably stationed, which would be trained to coordinate its singing with the band.

It may be sung on occasions which, though not strictly ceremonial, are nevertheless invested with significance because of the presence of Ministers and others, the Ministry said.

"It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of occasions on which the singing (as distinct from playing) of official version of the National Song can be permitted. But there is no objection to the singing of the National Song accompanied by mass singing so long as it is done with due respect as a salutation to the motherland and proper decorum is maintained," the Ministry said.

"In all schools, the day's work may begin with community singing of the National Song...," it added.

Setting the tone

Key guidelines for singing and playing the National Song

- *Vande Mataram* should be sung or played before the National Anthem when both are performed at an event
- The audience must stand at attention when the official version, around 3 minutes 10 seconds long, is sung or played
- Standing is not required if it is played as part of a newsreel or documentary
- The official version shall be accompanied by mass singing during unfurling of the National Flag, cultural occasions, or ceremonial functions other than parades

Proud moment: A tableau celebrating 150 years of *Vande Mataram* during the Republic Day Parade. PTI

SC says probe into AI-171 crash must be completed in 3 weeks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted three weeks for the completion of the investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) into the Air India Flight 171 crash at the Ahmedabad airport, which killed 12 crew members and 229 passengers on June 12 last year.

"There is a lot of anxiety and queries in the minds of pilots, close relatives [of those who died]... We are also eagerly waiting for the findings of the investigation. We also want to see what they have to say," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a Bench, addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government.

The court asked Mr. Mehta to place the AAIB report on record after the completion of the investigation.

During the hearing, Mr. Mehta said a detailed and international investigation was on, and asked for three weeks more.

At one point, addressing questions raised about the safety of the Boeing 787 Dreamliners, the CJI asked how many other airlines globally used the aircraft. On receiving a response that "many airlines do", Chief Justice Kant remarked that grounding Dreamliners might effectively lead to grounding the airlines serving the country.

The tail of the Air India plane that crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025. VIJAY SONEJI

'Wait for report'

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for 91-year-old Pushkarraj Sabharwal, along with advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi, argued that a separate court of inquiry headed by a retired judge was the law and the norm in the aftermath of a major air accident.

The CJI responded that the "smallest air accident leads to disastrous consequences". The Bench stressed that it would wait for the AAIB to come out with its report.

Delhi HC asks Rapsodia to disclose sales information

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In an interim order in a suit filed by Indian designer Anupama Dayal against Argentinian brand Rapsodia alleging unauthorised duplication of her copyrighted works, the Delhi High Court has directed the company to disclose production, manufacturing, export and sales details of the alleged infringing products.

On February 6, the court asked the defendant to file, within six weeks, an affidavit setting out the total number of items produced for each alleged infringing work, the dates of manufacture, the place and name of the manufacturer, dates of export from India along with shipping documents, invoices and forwarder documents, and copies of purchase orders.

Calling Rafale a 'hero', Vice Chief of Air Staff seeks more fighter planes

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor on Wednesday described the Rafale fighter jet as the "hero" of Operation Sindoor, and said the Indian Air Force (IAF) was looking to induct more such multi-role fighter aircraft, with Rafale planes among the contenders.

"Rafale was definitely the hero during Operation Sindoor among other heroes. The Indian Air Force is looking forward to inducting more MRFA, which is going to be Rafale or any other aircraft under deliberations. A decision has yet to be taken. We are looking for newer generation aircraft [to add] into our inventory," he said.

On reports regarding alleged strikes on Pakistan's Kirana Hills during the operation, Air Marshal Kapoor said the IAF had targeted terror infrastructure and several military installations. "Whether we did something there or whether the explosion was caused by something else, we don't know. These videos were presented by their people; we did nothing beyond striking terror and military installations," he said. He was briefing journalists about Vayu Shakti, an upcoming IAF exercise to be held at the Pokharan air-to-ground range near the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan on February 27. The biennial firepower demonstration will highlight the success of Operation Sindoor and the IAF's capability to rapidly punish the enemy and dominate the operational environment.

More than 120 air assets, including 77 fighter jets, will participate. The line-up includes Rafale, Su-30MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguar, and Tejas aircraft. Helicopters will also take part, including Apache, Chinook, light combat helicopter Prachand, and advanced light helicopter, along with transport aircraft such as the C-130J, C-17, and C-295, which will make its debut at the event.

Wing Commander Ajit B. Wasane said that 277 weapons would be deployed during the exercise, which will last two hours and 35 minutes. Around 12,000 kg of explosives will be detonated across 43 events involving 23 targets. Surface-to-air systems such as Akash and SpyDer, short-range loitering munitions, and counter unmanned aerial systems will be showcased. The drill will feature integrated operations with the Army, including the deployment of M-777 howitzers, L-70 guns, and Special Forces.

Vayu Shakti, an upcoming IAF exercise, will be held at the Pokharan air-to-ground range in Rajasthan on February 27. PTI

Education Ministry pushes for AI-led teaching and learning at all levels by next academic year

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Education is working with the goal of ensuring that artificial intelligence (AI) tools become a part of teaching and learning in one way or another from the kindergarten to the research levels by the next academic year, officials said on Wednesday.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met with leaders of 10 leading start-ups using AI in the ed-tech sector at a roundtable discussion in IIT Delhi, ahead of the government's Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave starting Thursday.

Officials told pressperson on Wednesday that the government will be launching Bodhan AI during the conclave, which is expected to lead to digital public infrastructure (DPI) for the education sector as a whole.

Dharmendra Pradhan

Mr. Pradhan said that while the government was already working to introduce AI knowledge in curricula, the focus now will be on delivering AI-assisted applications, pushing towards "AI-sovereignty". Applications include using the tool for teacher capacity building programmes, for preparing personalised lesson plans based on content already produced by institutions like the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)and State CERTs.

The Education Minister argued that while the government had made significant efforts to take digital devices and internet connectivity to far-flung areas of the country, the next challenge is to use AI to deliver content to students in these regions.

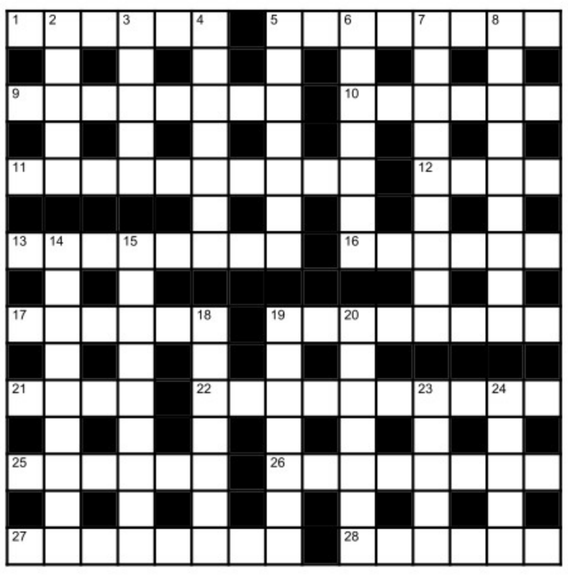
After the roundtable on Wednesday, which was also attended by Skill Development Minister Jayant Chaudhary, Mr. Pradhan posted on social media, saying that the founders he met were "home-grown", from "middle-class and tier-III city backgrounds", "who are building indigenous AI stacks particularly for transforming the educational landscape".

TH CROSSWORD + 14715

(set by Pixie Dust)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Plasticine managed to protect films (6)
5 Grade repeated often, it's observed? (8)
9 These drill masters go about doing tests? (8)
10 A new promise but not a solution (6)
11 Run dog in park? (10)
12 Prized animal caught (4)
13 According to the Reverend, bald assistant can keep locks in place? (8)
16 Relative accusing stationer's missing every now and then (6)
17 Brown caught sweet model escaping (6)
19 Eggs, nuts, lentils and meat perhaps delivered for adolescents (8)
21 Politically correct leaders were overwhelmingly knowledgeable. Extraordinary! (4)
22 Celebrity on holiday forgets about hunger (10)
25 Skimpy elite insiders let off (6)
26 Soon time will change feelings (8)
27 That man's describing Bill in grand captions (8)
28 Cuts small fruits (6)

Down

2 Guide allowed to display model (5)
3 Want to cycle around end of forest and river opening (5)
4 Continent ignoring a large country (7)
5 Dangerous seducer set free (7)
6 Girl managed naughty mad nana (7)
7 For a change, desire new, extremely comfortable house (9)
8 First lady almost possessed by excitement is high (9)
14 Beg pardon! Associate Grace is maintaining journal (9)
15 Noted umpire chosen ignoring captain (9)
18 Festival not at first Levantine (7)
19 Appeals from contenders switching sides (7)
20 Unconcerned when a couple of Lilliputians go missing undisguised (7)
23 Family involved in neonate birth's coming back (5)
24 Ultimately to somehow in the register, find titleholder (5)

SUDOKU

	9					1	6	
	1				9	8		
4		8			1		7	
2				3				
		4				2		
				7				5
	8		9			7		3
		6	3				1	
	4	3					5	

No.SS6789 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

H	M	F			D	S	L	
B	E	L	U	G	A	M	A	I
R	S	M	O	A	U	T		
P	O	S	T	M	O	R	T	E
N	E	U	I	E	O	R		
E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O	T
		E		N	E		T	
M	O	D	U	S	O	P	E	R
E			O	I		E		
P	A	S	C	A	L	C	L	A
T	O	S	T	D	A	I		
B	L	U	R	T	O	U	C	H
O	P	I	R	E	O	J		
M	A	S	S	A	C	R	E	
F	E	E			E	E	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	8	2	7	5	3	4	1
3	7	2	1	4	9	6	5	8
4	5	1	6	8	3	2	9	7
7	1	3	8	5	6	4	2	9
8	4	6	9	3	2	7	1	5
5	2	9	7	1	4	8	3	6
1	3	4	5	6	7	9	8	2
2	8	7	4	9	1	5	6	3
6	9	5	3	2	8	1	7	4

FAITH

All of mankind is our family

Swami Ramateertha was travelling to America. The ship reached a port in California. While everyone else was leaving the ship, the swami just walked up and down the deck. An American, observing this, asked him where his luggage was? The sanyasi replied that he had his possessions with him, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi in a discourse. The American was puzzled, because the swami had nothing with him. Ramateertha then said, "If you consider all the organs in my body as my possessions, then as you can see, I have all my possessions with me. Besides these, I have nothing to call my own." The American was taken aback.

The American now had another question for Swami Ramateertha. "Do you have money with you?" he asked. Ramateertha said, "I keep nothing for myself. I am a part of this Universe created by God. I am His child. He is my father, and He owns everything on this earth. So, whatever is on this earth also belongs to me. If everything here belongs to me, why should I take anything with me? Those who are spiritually inclined give me food. When I am thirsty, they give me water. If we have love towards our fellow beings, there is no end to our joy."

Ramateertha said the Truth that was responsible for the functioning of the world was the God he worshipped. It was clear that Vedantic truths were the only property Ramateertha had. The American then asked, "Do you know anyone in America?" Ramateertha said, "I know one person – you." The American never forgot his interaction with the swami, which he recalled in later years. The lesson for us is that everyone in this world is worthy of respect and love. We must see all of mankind as our family.

INBRIEF

India's Akasa Air says co-founder Iyer leaving airline

Indian airline Akasa Air said on Wednesday its co-founder and chief commercial officer, Praveen Iyer, will be leaving in April, at a time when the firm is navigating delayed Boeing jet deliveries. Mr. Iyer will be succeeded by Anand Srinivasan, another co-founder and the chief information officer, Akasa said, without offering more details. It marks the second high-profile departure at the airline in recent months, following the exit of Neelu Khatri, a co-founder, last year. REUTERS

India corn, soybean prices fall as door opens to U.S. import

Indian corn and soybean prices fell Wednesday after New Delhi agreed to duty-free imports of U.S. soyoil and a protein-rich animal feed under a new trade deal with Washington, stoking fears of cheaper supplies among farmers. Farm unions and Opposition parties, concerned about cheap U.S. supplies, have called nationwide protests for Thursday. Soybean and corn prices have fallen by 10% and 4% each since the interim framework was announced last week. REUTERS

Silver, gold futures rebound on weak dollar, U.S.-Iran issue

Gold and silver prices rebounded sharply in futures trade on Wednesday, with the white metal climbing nearly 4% or ₹9,665 to ₹2.62 lakh per kg and the yellow metal edging higher to ₹1.58 lakh per 10 grams on firm global trends. Analysts said a weak U.S. dollar and renewed geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and Iran lifted the demand for safe-haven assets. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), silver for March delivery surged by ₹9,665, or 3.83% to ₹2,62,213 per kg. PTI

SMEs unfamiliar with capital markets, lack intermediaries: SEBI

Practical guidance not clear, internal governance systems to handle SME IPOs not yet mature, making IPO process cumbersome, says Pandey

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Shift focus: Greater SME participation in markets diversifies financing channels, cuts banking sector risk, says SEBI chief.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) face limited access to intermediary facilities such as merchant bankers and are unfamiliar with capital markets, which make it challenging for them to go public, said SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey.

"Greater SME participation in markets also diversifies financing channels, reduces risk concentration in banking sector and frees bank capacity for genuine working capital and priority lending. Yet, SME capital market is under-scaled relative to India's potential." Practical guidance is unclear and internal governance systems to handle SME IPOs have not matured making the process cumbersome, he added.

TMB to shift 50% staff to sales in two years amid tech, automation

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank will repurpose more than half its staff towards sales as it shifts focus from maintaining long-standing customer relationships to increasing revenue, a top official said.

This will be done through the technology-led investments, which lead to automation benefits in a lot of repeat jobs, MD and CEO Salee S. Nair told PTI, underlining there will not be any layoffs.

Staff count to rise

Overall employee count is expected to rise by over 200 from the current 5,000, said Mr. Nair.

"Two years down the line, about 50-60% of the employees will get repurposed into sales. We will be training them for the new roles," he said, speaking on the sidelines of an event to announce its tie-up with tech major Oracle.

Mr. Nair recalled after joining the bank, he found many processes were being done manually and the use of technology largely limited to the core banking solution.

Revamping processes

This led to a bank-wide effort on revamping processes with the best of technology tools, he said, adding the board sanctioned an outlay of ₹250 cr. for FY26.

Mr. Nair said at present, human resources account for 47% of the overall ₹1,500 crore expenditure for the bank.

'India must lead global firms' reply to climate change'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

SBTi CEO David Kennedy with Arun Nanda.

India as the world's fastest-growing major economy, expanding at 6-7% annually, has the scale and momentum to influence how global business responds to climate risk, top officials of the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTI), a global body that validates corporate emission reduction targets and is referenced by investors and multinational buyers, said.

They said India now is not just another market, but a strategic priority to meet Net Zero goals.

Ahead of the Global South's first Mumbai Climate Week, SBTi CEO David Kennedy and former president of Mahindra group, Arun Nanda, are meeting leaders across major conglomerates, to spread the message that climate action in India must move from aspiration to conviction and from isolated commitments to systemic transformation.

"We claim we are the fourth-largest economy," Mr. Nanda told *The Hindu*. "But we also have a responsibility. We inherited nature not for ourselves but as custodians for future generations. A custodian has two duties: can I protect what I received, and can I improve it?."

SBTi provides globally recognised standards that help firms set and validate science-aligned emissions reduction targets.

Globally, more than 10,000 companies work with SBTi, representing nearly 40% of global market capitalisation and about 30% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Below potential

India, however, has fewer than 500 registered firms, far below its potential.

"Japan, with a smaller population, has around 2,000 companies registered," Mr. Nanda said. "India should not be at 500. Realistically, it should be at 5,000," he stated.

David Kennedy, CEO, SBTi said, "India is a huge economy and will significantly influence how the world manages climate risk. Growth is essential for India, but it must be green growth."

Climate leaders say trade and supply chains are central to this transformation. "For large manufacturers like Tata Motors or Mahindra & Mahindra, 70% or more of product value comes from suppliers.

"Large corporates are multipliers. When they set science-based targets, they activate thousands of suppliers. That is how ambition becomes systemic impact," Mr. Kennedy added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,234	-0.05
US Dollar	90.78	-0.24
Brent oil	70.05	1.65

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2234.40	6.00
Adani Ports	1553.40	-1.30
Apollo Hosp	7507.00	288.00
Asian Paints	2392.50	-1.10
Axis Bank	1347.30	-9.40
Bajaj Auto	9869.50	95.50
Bajaj Finserv	2027.00	-0.90
Bajaj Finance	968.95	3.35
Bharat Elec	437.55	0.25
Bharti Airtel	2012.10	0.80
Cipla	1349.90	7.80
Coal India	423.25	-7.70
Dr Reddys Lab	1270.30	14.30
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	DE*
Eicher Motors	7771.00	475.00
Eternal Ltd.	300.70	-3.10
Grasim Ind	2932.60	-21.30
HCL Tech	1551.60	-21.50
HDFC Bank	927.10	-5.30
HDFC Life	701.10	-2.85
Hindalco	965.95	-2.95
Hind Unilever	2462.90	9.30
ICICI Bank	1406.10	-0.40
IntGlobeAvi	5013.80	53.40
Infosys	1471.90	-25.90
ITC	318.25	-3.15
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	270.30	0.10
JSW Steel	1249.20	5.10
Kotak Bank	429.55	0.25
L&T	4170.40	1.40
M&M	3674.90	-0.90
Maruti Suzuki	15412.00	266.00
Max Healthcare	1055.15	33.65
NestleIndia	1305.30	-3.30
NTPC	368.45	1.55
ONGC	274.60	2.45
PowerGrid Corp	294.45	0.10
Reliance Ind	1468.70	10.20
SBI Life	2026.30	8.00
State Bank	1182.90	38.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1056.80	8.20
Sun Pharma	1711.10	3.30
TataConsumerProduct	1152.60	0.40
Tata Steel	207.59	-0.42
TCS	2909.80	-74.80
Tech Mahindra	1634.40	-10.20
Titan	4249.10	-20.00
Tata Motors PV	384.70	5.35
Trent Ltd.	4218.90	34.50
UltraTech Cement	12969.00	-54.00
Wipro	229.81	-1.66

DE: Demerged Entity

BHEL shares plunge 6%

Shares of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) plunged 6% on Wednesday after the government announced plans to sell up to a 5% stake in the firm via an offer for sale (OFS). PTI

India likely to pursue a U.S. tariff waiver for garments made with American cotton

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

India is likely to pursue a waiver of the 18% reciprocal tariff for garments that are made with U.S. cotton and exported to that country similar to the concession offered to Bangladesh.

Cotton field in South Carolina.

Sector hopeful

Representatives of textile export promotion councils, who participated in a meeting on Wednesday, said there were indications India will pursue with the U.S. to waive the reciprocal tariff on garments and textiles made with U.S. cotton or man-made fibre.

The U.S.-Bangladesh Agreement on Reciprocal Trade signed on February 9 says the U.S. will establish a mechanism that will allow for certain textile and apparel goods from Bangladesh to receive zero reciprocal tariff rate for a to-be-specified volume of exports from Bangladesh that are produced with cotton and MMF textile inputs from the U.S.

'Allay fears'

"The U.S. Bangladesh agreement is nothing to be worried about by the Indian textile and apparel sector. The government allayed fears of the industry and indicated India will also pursue a similar proposal," said A. Sakthivel, chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council.

India imports five lakh bales American cotton annually, including 2.5 lakh bales of non-Extra Long Staple varieties.

M&M Q3 net rises 47% to ₹4,675 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) reported 47% year-on-year growth in third quarter consolidated net profit to ₹4,675 crore on consolidated revenue rising 26% to ₹52,100 crore.

Auto and Farm business continued to deliver on growth and margins, with profit rising by 33% to ₹3,931 crore. Revenue grew 26% to ₹38,942 crore.

"The quarterly performance reflects our strong focus on growth coupled with disciplined execution, said Anish Shah, Group CEO & MD. "Auto & Farm maintained its leadership position on the back of steady customer demand,

New tractors for sale at a Mahindra dealership. AFP FILE

strong product acceptance and unwavering focus on operational excellence.

"Tech Mahindra continues to make meaninfull progress. Mahindra Finance delivered another solid quarter with meaningful PAT growth while maintaining strong asset quality" said Mr. Shah.

Ashok Leyland Q3 PAT rises 4% to ₹796 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd, a commercial vehicle manufacturer, reported 4% year-on-year (YoY) growth in third quarter net profit to ₹796 crore after considering a one-time charge of ₹308 crore towards new labour code. Revenue grew 22% YoY to ₹11,534 crore.

Medium and heavy commercial vehicles volume stood at 32,929 units compared with 26,692 units in the same period last year up 23%.

"This is higher than Q3 industry growth resulting in a market share gain," the company said.

ANDHRA PRADESH MARITIME BOARD
2nd Floor, IHC Corporate, Mangalagiri, Guntur Dt.522503

Tender Notice No.7/SE/SBC/MTM/APMB/2025-26, Dt.12.02.2026 for the work of "Selection of Applicant for Setting up a Shipbuilding and Ship Repair facility at Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh on DBFOT Basis". The Tenders can be downloaded from the website **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/** from 16.02.2026 and further details can be had from the Executive Engineer, contact: **9493173415**.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer,
DIPR 4821PP/CL, Dt: 11.02.2026 A.P. Maritime Board, Machilipatnam

THE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE SEEDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
D.No. 4-150, Prasadampadu, Ramavarappadu Post, Vijayawada - 521108
No.APSSDC/PROD/P.Material/Tenders/11/07/2025-26 Dt: 10.02.2026
e- TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are here by invited from the reputed and registered Manufacturers / suppliers for supply of HDPE, Non-woven bags and Labels i.e., packing material for seeds packing to APSSDCL units in the districts of A.P. state. Last date & time for submission of Bid is **20.02.2026, 01:00 PM** through **https:tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** e-procurement platform and for further details please login to website **www.apseeds.ap.gov.in.**

Sd/- V.C. & MANAGING DIRECTOR

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TGSPDCL intends to float tender for procurement of (a) LT TVR 100/5A 0.5S (CAT-C) DLMS & IRDA along with CTs, TTB in PP box (b) 3-Ph 315 KVA CU Wound DTR BIS EE Star 2, L-2 (c) 3-Ph 500KVA CU Wound DTR BIS EE Star 2, L-2 on e-procurement platform.
For further details of each item above, please visit **www.tgsouthernpower.org**, **www.tender.telangana.gov.in**, **www.auction.telangana.gov.in**.
Phone: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026

Sd/-
DIPR R.O. No. : 1152-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26, Date: 11-02-2026 CHIEF ENGINEER (P&MM)

कार्यालय नगर पालिका मसूदा, जिला – ब्यावर (राज.)
क्रमांक / न.पा.म / निर्माण / 2025–26 / 1930 दिनांक 06.02.2026
ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या – /2025–2026/

नगर पालिका मसूदा की ओर से नगर पालिका मसूदा एवं राजकीय विभाग में नियमानुसार ''ए'' श्रेणी सिविल कार्यो में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्रों में ई–प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रकिया से ऑन लाईन निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य की निविदा बेचे जाने की दिनांक 06.02.2026 को 11:00 एम से तथा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम दिनांक 16.02.2026 को 06:00 पीएम तक एवं निविदा शर्ते आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/** व **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/** पर देखी जा सकती है।
यूबीएन नं. DLB2526B1367

अधिशाषी अधिकारी
राज.संवाद / सी / 25 / 19560 नगरपालिका मसूदा

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR.
No. NIT/2025-26/34700-14 **निविदा सूचना/2025-26** Date: 11.02.2026

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के अभियात्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत (रु.)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
SITC of HVAC work at Admin. Block Marwar Medical University of Borawas, Jodhpur.UBN: RRC2526WSOB01197	366.00 Lakh	ई-690/25-26
Additional work Required at Medical College, Karauli. UBN: RRC2526WSOB01201	365.33 Lakh	अल्पकालीन ई-691/25-26
Construction of Outer Facade work at Sambhagiya Kar Bhawan at Jaipur. UBN: RRC2526WLOB01203	1245.14 Lakh	ई-694/25-26

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in** तथा **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc** पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। महाप्रबंधक

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
HIDCO BHABAN, Premises No. 35-1111, Biswa Bangla Sarani, 3rd Rotary, New Town, Kolkata-700156
Memo No. C–66(1)/HIDCO/Admn-4399/2025 Date 11.02.2026
Abridged Notice for e-Auction

E-AUCTION FOR ALLOTMENT OF 2.29 ACRES OF LAND IN PLOT NO. 574, 597, 594 etc. IN MOUZA PASCHIM GADADHARPUR JL No. 78 IN DIGHA, DISTRICT PURBA MEDINIPUR ON FREEHOLD BASIS FOR SETTING UP HOTELS AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES.

[e-Auction ID: 2026_WB_5448] dtd. 11.12.2025

PLOT NO.	PLOT SIZE	E-AUCTION DATE	LAST DATE OF APPLICATION
PLOT NO 574, 597, 594 etc. IN DIGHA	2.29 Acres	18.03.2026	11.03.2026 upto 14:00 hrs.

For details, please visit https://eauction.gov.in or www.wbhidcoltd.com
Contact no :- 2324-6032/6037/6038

ICA- T3660(4)/2026

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GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, FUTURE CITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
NOTICE INVITING FOR (RFP) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
No: FCDA/Plg./RFP/2025/007, **Dt: 11.02.2026**

Request for Proposal (RFP) is hereby invited from reputed consultancy firms for the ***"Preparation of Vision and Comprehensive Master Plan 2047 for Future City Development Authority Area"***.
Interested consultancy firms are requested to submit their RFP along with their credentials, relevant experience, list of similar assignments undertaken, technical capabilities. Further, details regarding submission timelines and evaluation criteria will be shared in the Request for Proposal to be obtained from **@ tender.telangana.gov.in**.
The Interested consultancy firm may obtain Request for Proposal (RFP) from e procurement platform i.e., **tender.telangana.gov.in**.

1.	Start Date for downloading RFP document	12.02.2026 12:01 PM
2.	Last date and time for downloading RFP document	25.02.2026 05:00 PM
3.	Last date for Submission of RFP document (including Technical and Financial) along with Demand Draft for Rs. 50,000 drawn in favour of Commissioner FCDA [Non-Refundable]	12.03.2026 05:00 PM
4.	Technical bid opening	16.03.2026 11:00 AM
5.	Price bid opening	Will be intimated to the bidders

R.O. No. : 1156-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt: 11.02.2026 Sd/- Commissioner, FCDA

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNDARGARH
Near Bana Durga Temple, Sankara, Sundargarh, Dist: Sundargarh. PIN-770020 Email: serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com Via E-mail/ E-despatch

Office Order No. **889** // Date: **10.02.2026**
1st Corrigendum

The date of availability of tender online/ date of seeking clarification/ date of opening of tender for the work invited under NIT Letter No.486 dtd 27.01.2026 vide Bid Identification No: Online- **RWCCESNG-34 of 2025-26** are hereby modified as follows:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding upto	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Technical Bid Opening	Financial Bid Opening
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG -34 of 2025-26	12.02.2026 11.00 AM	02.03.2026 5.00 PM	27.02.2026 5.00 PM	05.03.2026 11.00 AM	Will be intimated separately

All other terms and Conditions are remained Unchanged.
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
25001/142/2526 OIPR-25001/25133/1/25-26/0042

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone No. 080-22265383. website : www.kiadb.in

No.:IADB/ENGG/PMC/ETND-EP-05/1669/2025-26 **Date:10.02.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following work:

Name of the Work : Project Management Consultancy Services for Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 24M Wide Roads, Flexible Pavement, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Box Culverts, RCC Utility Ducts, HDPE Water Supply Pipeline etc., at Itangihal Industrial Area, Vijayapura Taluk & District **(Package-1)** & Formation of Industrial Layout Including Formation of 24M & 18M Wide Roads, Flexible Pavement, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Box Culverts, RCC Utility Ducts, HDPE Water Supply Pipeline, ELSR etc., at Itangihal Industrial Area, Vijayapura Taluk & District **(Package-2).**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **25.02.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2
DIPR/CP/JA/5589/2025-26

VANCOUVER

Nine persons killed in shooting in school and home in Canada

AFP

A shooting at a school in Tumbler Ridge, a remote northern British Columbia, left seven persons dead, while two more were found dead at a nearby home, Canadian authorities said on Tuesday. A woman believed by police to be the shooter was also found dead, apparently from a self-inflicted wound. AP

KYIV

Three Ukrainian toddlers, father, killed in Russian drone attack

REUTERS

A Russian drone strike on a house in northeastern Ukraine's Bogodukhiv killed three toddlers and their father, officials said on Wednesday. The children's mother, who is eight months pregnant, survived, but sustained "a traumatic brain injury, acoustic barotrauma, and thermal burns", prosecutors said. AFP

BRUSSELS

NATO launches 'Arctic Sentry' mission after Greenland crisis

AP

NATO on Wednesday said it had launched a new mission to bolster security in the Arctic, in a move to assuage U.S. President Donald Trump after he backed off claims on Greenland. NATO said the "multi-domain activity" would initially pull together work already being carried out by alliance members in the region. AFP

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka sentences 12 to death for lawmaker's mob killing in 2022

AFP

A Sri Lankan court sentenced 12 men to death for killing lawmaker Amarakeerthi Athukorala during the 2022 protests that ousted then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Athukorala was lynched in Nittambuwa after he opened fire on people blocking his car. Sri Lanka hasn't executed anyone since 1976. AFP

BNP accuses Jamaat-e-Islami of trying to buy votes before polling

The accusation was made after a Jamaat leader was caught with nearly 74 lakh taka (₹55 lakh) in Saidpur airport in north Bangladesh; the Islamist party said the incident was a 'staged drama' to project the party in negative light ahead of the vote

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

Hours before polling, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Wednesday accused Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) of attempting to sabotage the election process by using money power.

The accusation was made after a Jamaat leader was caught with nearly 74 lakh taka (₹55 lakh) in Saidpur airport in north Bangladesh.

JeI said the incident was a "staged drama" by law enforcement agencies.

"At a time when all banks, financial institutions, business transactions and activities are closed to prevent illegal financial dealings in the election, naturally, questions are arising everywhere - from what source did the top leader of Jamaat in one district obtain this vast amount of money, for what purpose, to whom was it intended for, and why was he travelling from Dhaka to Thakurgaon on the eve of election," said Mahdi Amin, spokesperson of the BNP's Election Steering Committee, alleging that there have been reports of Jamaat leaders distributing cash in multiple other constituencies including Dhaka-15, where JeI's chief Shafiqur Rahman is contesting the election.

Poll fiasco: Residents walking past a campaign banner of a Jamaat-e-Islami candidate in Bangladesh's Jessore district. AFP

The BNP and Jamaat, which were coalition partners during 2001-06, are pitted against each other in the absence of the Awami League, whose activities remain banned.

Over the past several days, the two parties have clashed on multiple occasions and on Tuesday in Bogura, a BNP leader was injured after he was allegedly attacked by Jamaat supporters. Mr. Amin accused JeI of collecting bKash financial transfer numbers and Voter IDs of citizens and planning to hand over cash to voters. "The Saidpur Airport incident cannot be viewed as an isolated event," said Mr. Amin. He added that "a particular party" is accumulating "domestic weapons" and intimidating voters.

Jamaat held a press conference soon after the incident was reported and said concerted attempts were being made to project the party in negative light.

Iran will not yield in face of aggression: Pezeshkian

Stanly Johny

Crowds thronged Tehran and other Iranian cities on Wednesday to mark the 47th anniversary of the Islamic revolution that toppled the U.S.-backed Pahlavi monarchy, and to show solidarity with the government at a time when Iran faces the threat of another war, with the U.S. shoring up military presence in the region.

On February 9, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Iranians to take part in "street marches" to demonstrate national power and drive "the enemy to despair". On Wednesday, state TV broadcast visuals of demonstrators filling the streets, carrying portraits of Mr. Khamenei and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Islamic Republic's founder, along with Iranian and Palestinian flags, and chanting slogans such as 'Death to America' and 'Death to Israel'. State media claimed that huge crowds poured into Tehran's Azadi Square and 1,400 cities and towns.

Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during the 47th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Tehran on Wednesday. REUTERS

Resolute stance

"From the very first days of the Revolution, the enemies tried to destroy our fledgling movement through actions such as creating division and staging coups," President Masoud Pezeshkian, a reformist, said while addressing a rally at Azad Square. He said Iran was not seeking nuclear weapons and was ready for verification, but added that it would not fold under pressure.

"Our Iran will not yield in the face of aggression, but we are continuing dialogue with all our strength with neighbouring countries in order to establish peace and tranquillity in the region," Mr. Pezeshkian said. "Our country, Iran, will not yield to their excessive demands," he added, per state media.

High tensions

This year's anniversary celebrations are being held amid high tensions between Iran and the U.S. In the first week of January, Iran witnessed widespread anti-government protests and riots, which were put down by security personnel. According to Iranian authorities, at least 3,117 people were killed in violent protests and state crackdown.

The U.S. and Iran held talks in Muscat on February 6, but there was no breakthrough. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who ordered air strikes on Iran in June 2025, triggered the 12-day war, is now in Washington to meet Mr. Trump. They are expected to discuss Iran among other topics.

Mr. Trump, in an interview on Tuesday, said he is considering sending a second aircraft carrier to West Asia to prepare for military action against Iran should negotiations fail. "Either we will make a deal, or we will have to do something very tough like last time," said Mr. Trump, referring to the U.S. air strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities on June 22, 2025.

With eyes on trade, global governance, Lula set to visit India with executives

Shobhan Saxena
SAO PAULO

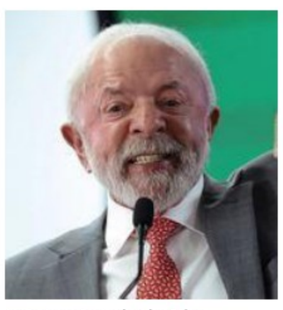
Brazil is getting ready for the Carnival this weekend, when the country literally comes to a halt, but hectic preparations are under way in Brasilia for President Lula da Silva's upcoming visit to India with a business delegation of 260 companies.

The largest-ever Brazilian delegation to India marks the culmination of the highest-level engagement between the two countries over the past few years – in a challenging geopolitical scenario. This could also be the Brazilian leader's last major foreign engagement before Brazil gets into election mode for the presidential polls in October this year.

Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bilateral meeting with Lula in Brasilia in July 2025, when they discussed the expansion of bilateral trade, the Brazilian leader's trip to New Delhi, from February 19 to 21, is being given top priority by the Brazilian government.

Celso Amorim, who serves as Lula's principal foreign policy adviser, sees the visit as an opportunity for collaboration in strategic sectors between two emerging economies. "Cooperation between Brazil and India can be very broad, but I would highlight above all two domains: technology and defence," Mr. Amorim told *The Hindu*.

"Brazil and India have developed, each in its own way, very important aspects of biotechnology too. In space science, India has given us a great example of how it is possible to achieve great accomplishments without necessarily resorting to the technology of the rich countries," said Mr. Amorim, who has earlier served as Foreign Minister and Defence Minister under Presidents Lula and Dilma Rouseff, respectively. Since the 2025 bilateral meeting, the Brazilian side has been working to strengthen its trade ties with India. Jorge Viana, head of the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Apex Brazil), told *The Hindu* that Lula asked him last year to put together a delegation as part of his efforts to expand commercial ties with India.



Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

AI summit

"In Delhi, the President will participate in the Artificial Intelligence summit, but we are also organising a huge business meeting in collaboration with our Foreign Ministry. Apex is also opening an office in Delhi as we see India, the most populous nation, as one of the economies with the greatest potential for growth," Mr. Viana told *The Hindu* from Brasília. "Till last year, India was our 10th biggest trading partner, but now in recent months it has been competing to be the fifth. It could become the third biggest."

In 2025, Brazil purchased Indian products worth $8.5 billion, while Brazilian exports to India totalled $7 billion – mainly in oil, sugar, molasses, fats and vegetable oils and iron ore sectors. However, Mr. Viana says, Brazilians now want to diversify their exports to India.

"We have 260 Brazilian companies attending the event that Apex is organising in Delhi. We have representatives from all strategic sectors. We are taking a lot of people from the health area, including our Health Minister, because India is a major supplier of medicines to Brazil. We also have important companies of ethanol and biofuel onboard because there is already an agreement between Brazil and India in the area." He added that there could be a major announcement about the arrival of Embraer, the Brazilian aircraft manufacturing firm, in India.

While trade may dominate Lula's agenda in Delhi, Brazil is also looking at India's presidency of BRICS in 2026 to further advance the conversation on global governance and multilateralism.

"It is important that the Indian presidency of BRICS leads this discussion about the current world order and how to change it. We all know the struggle there is for the expansion of the UN Security Council. A world without rules is a very difficult world. India and Brazil have always worked with rules," he said.

Pam Bondi accused of Epstein file 'cover-up'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Congressional Democrats accused U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi on Wednesday of engaging in a "cover-up" of the Jeffrey Epstein files and turning the Justice Department into a weapon of retribution for President Donald Trump. Ms. Bondi, testifying before the House Judiciary Committee, defended the department's handling of the records about the convicted sex offender at a hearing attended by Epstein's victims.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec.No.PMM32-e-10/2026: Supply of **9 Nos. 220V,100AH VRLA Battery banks and 20 Nos. 220V, 200AH VRLA Battery banks. Date & Time of availability of above tender: 12.02.2026** at **6:00PM.** Website: **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** Contact No.CE/Transmission: **0866-2429230.**

R.O. No. GMCC/APTRANSCO/44/26

Sd/-
Chief Engineer/Transmission

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Municipal Corporation Amritsar
Tender Reference No. E-Tender Notice No. 157 Date 09.02.2026

The Department of : Municipal Corporation, Amritsar Invites Bid for Following Works

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimate Amount
1	**Sweeping of Internal roads by mechanical means in the area of Central and West Constituency of Amritsar City for 2 years**	9.82 Cr
2	**Sweeping of Internal roads by mechanical means in the area of North Constituency of Amritsar City for 2 years**	9.80 Cr
3	**Sweeping of Internal roads by mechanical means in the area of South and East Constituency of Amritsar City for 2 years**	9.83 Cr

Closing Date and Time : 25.02.2026 upto 03:00 PM
EMD : 2% of Estimate Amount
For Detail log onto : **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
Note : Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer (C), Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

1596/12/2025-26/8159

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce1pmrda@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No.41 for FY 2025-26 (2nd call)

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of Project Management Unit (PMU) for various works in PMRDA".**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 13/02/2026 at 11.00 AM Hrs. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 20/02/2026 upto 3.00 PM Hrs. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-1)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-22/2025-26	Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 220kV Switchyard (AIS) with 02 nos. of 220/132kV, 200 MVA Auto transformer at existing 132/33kV GIS, Khuntuni with 220kV DC line from 400/220/33kV Grid Substation,Neulpoi to existing 132/33kV GIS Substation, Khuntuni (Line length- 26.09 route KMS. approx.) with 02 nos bay extension at Neulpoi Grid Substation on Turnkey Contract Basis in e-tendering mode only.	Rs. 67,12,98,362/-
CPC-33/2025-26	Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 2x 80 MVA, 132/33kV Sub-station Manamunda with SAS (Process Bus Based) and associated 132 kV LILO line on 132kV Sonepur - Boudh line (Approx. Line Length- 6 kms.) & 2nd Circuit Stringing of 132kV Sonepur-Boudh Circuit along with 132kV Feeder Bay at existing 132/33kV Grid Sub-station Sonepur and at existing 132/33kV Grid Sub-station Boudh on EPC contract basis.	Rs. 57,51,32,142/-
CPC-60/2025-26	Enlistment of firms/ contractors in works rate contract for execution of LIVE (HOT) line maintenance of EHV Transmission line and sub-stations of OPTCL in the state of Odisha in e-tendering mode only.	- N/A -
CPC-63/2025-26	Procurement of outdoor mounted live tank type, single phase, single unit type 220kV type Current Transformers for protection and metering services in 33kV, 132kV,220kV & 400kV system in e-tendering mode only.	Rs. 2,87,81,970.00/-
SGM-NZ-BLS-06/2025-26	Bids are invited under single stage two-envlop system from reputed manufacturers/firms/contractors for Metal Spreading In 132kV & 33kV Switchyard Of 132/33kV GSS, Baripada under EHT (O&M) Division Baripada under Northern(O&M) Zone, Balasore in e-tendering mode only.	Rs. 33,14,980/-

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and **www.optcl.co.in**.

/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha **HIPR-75/2025-26**

CLASS ACT

Rabada is a strong character and will bounce back, says Maharaj

VIJAY SONEJI

Kagiso Rabada is a world-class performer. Unfortunately, a pacer has to run 30 metres, so sometimes you do bowl a no-ball. His executions were really good. KG's a strong character, and it is only a matter of time before we get a man-of-the-match performance — Keshav Maharaj on Rabada failing to defend 12 in the 20th over.

GIFTED CRICKETER

Gurbaz should play an innings like this more often, says Trott

VIJAY SONEJI

Probably the best I've seen him (Rahmanullah Gurbaz) play. Unfortunately, he couldn't get us over the line. He is a really great and talented cricketer. And the innings we saw... he should play more often with the talent he has, and the physique, the sporting ability and natural hand-eye coordination — Jonathan Trott.

BACK-UP OPTION

Smith to travel to Sri Lanka after Aussie skipper Marsh gets injured

FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Veteran batter Steve Smith was called in as cover as Australia captain Mitchell Marsh was, on Wednesday, forced out of his team's opening T20 World Cup match against Ireland in Colombo owing to a groin injury. Smith, who hasn't played a T20I since February last year, will travel to Sri Lanka as cover to acclimatise and prepare.

IN AND OUT

ICC approves Haider as Zohaib's replacement in the UAE squad

GETTY IMAGES

The ICC Event Technical Committee has approved Haider Shah as a replacement for Muhammad Zohaib, *in pic,* in the United Arab Emirates squad in the T20 World Cup. "Haider was named as a replacement after Zohaib was withdrawn from the squad due to player mental well-being and team welfare issues," ICC stated.

Proteas edge past Afghans in double Super Over thriller

The dramatic win takes Markram & Co. closer to the Super Eights; heartbreak for Rashid's men as a second successive loss leaves them on the brink of elimination; Gurbaz's heroics in vain

T20 WORLD CUP

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

It is said that for lasting success, one has to go through the full cycle of emotions. In the ongoing T20 World Cup, South Africa seems to have embarked on that journey.

After stuttering ever so slightly against Canada, it nearly fell flat on its face, not once but twice against Afghanistan at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Wednesday, before lifting itself up and going past the finish line huffing and puffing.

Aiden Markram & Co. needed two Super Overs – after scores were tied at 187 runs each at the end of regulation time – to take a giant step towards qualification for the Super Eights.

Afghanistan scored 17 in the first shootout but South Africa matched it as Tristan Stubbs smashed a last-ball six off Fazalhaq Farooqi.

Frenetic action: Rabada, who bowled two no-balls in the final over, did well to run out Farooqi and force a Super Over. VIJAY SONEJI

Stubbs, Miller on fire

In the second tie-breaker, Stubbs and David Miller plundered 23, and when Keshav Maharaj bowled a dot and had Mohammed Nabi caught at point from the first two balls, it seemed all over.

But Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who scored a brilliant 84 (42b, 4x4, 7x6) earlier in the afternoon, carted Maharaj for three sixes in a row.

A subsequent wide meant Gurbaz, with a boundary off the final delivery, could drag the fixture into an unprecedented third Super Over, but it was not to be.

For Afghanistan, it was a second double-Super Over match in just over two years – previous one versus India in Bengaluru in January 2024 – and it has lost both.

The latest defeat also leaves its position in the World Cup precarious, with losses to both its fellow Group D contenders New Zealand and South Africa.

But should the contest even have gone to the first Super Over, let alone the second? With one wicket remaining and Afghanistan needing 13 from the 20th over, Kagiso Rabada had Noor Ahmad caught at cover, only for it to be a no-ball.

Then, Rabada bowled a wide, got hit by Noor for a six, and came up with another no-ball costing three runs to leave the Afghans requiring two from three.

But in an anti-climax, Farooqi was run out while stealing a double, a situation he could have entirely avoided by grounding the bat earlier.

Despite the manic action towards the finish that is sure to have a higher degree of permanence, it would be remiss not to doff the hat to Ryan Rickelton's belligerent hitting (61, 28b, 5x4, 4x6), Afghanistan's splendid bowling from overs 13 to 18 (four for 35), Lungi Ngidi's second consecutive top-draw effort (4-0-26-3) and the Proteas' fantastic fielding. After all, the process matters as much as the ending.

The scores: South Africa 187/6 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 59, Ryan Rickelton 61, Azmatullah Omarzai 3/41, Rashid Khan 2/28) tied with Afghanistan 187 in 19.4 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 84, Lungi Ngidi 3/26).

Super Over 1: Afghanistan 17/0 tied with South Africa 17/1.

Super Over 2: South Africa 23/0 bt Afghanistan 19/2.

Toss: Afghanistan; **PoM:** Ngidi.

I was lucky to have enough runs to defend, says Maharaj

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

Dot, wicket, six, six, six, wide, wicket. That's the hero to near-zero to hero roller-coaster that Keshav Maharaj went through on Wednesday as he successfully defended 23 runs in the second Super Over to help South Africa beat Afghanistan.

Of the four bowlers used in the Super Overs at the Narendra Modi Stadium here, he was the only spinner.

But such was the 36-year-old's confidence in executing under pressure that he did not second-guess himself even once.

"I wanted the ball from the start," Maharaj told reporters after the win. "But Lungs [Lungi Ngidi] was on fire so we went with him first.

"Then, Shuks [Shukri Conrad, coach] looked at me and I said 'Shuks give me the ball. I can change the rhythm of play'. And I was lucky enough to have enough runs to defend."

In the thick of things: Maharaj said he wanted the ball from the start. VIJAY SONEJI

No panic

The left-armer stated that at no time did the team panic despite having a rather inglorious history of losing tight games.

"We made a mess of it towards the end but unfortunately these things happen," he said. "Maybe a bit of rustiness coming back. But the positive is the character coming through, to take it two Super Overs and finding a way to get through.

"In the 2024 World Cup, we had four close games in the initial stages and two in the Super 8s. If that is the way we are going to play our cricket, that's fine as long as we get over the line."

West Indies proves too good for England

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Sherfane Rutherford and Jason Holder laid the platform with the bat before the spin duo of Gudakesh Motie and Roston Chase sealed the deal as the West Indies notched up its second successive win in the T20 World Cup with a commanding 30-run victory over England at the Wankhede Stadium here on Wednesday.

Put in to bat, West Indies posted 196 for six, thanks largely to Rutherford's unbeaten 76 (42b, 2x4, 7x6). His 61-run stand off just 32 deliveries with Holder (33, 17b, 1x4, 4x6) lifted the total.

The pair was watchful against leg-spinner Adil Rashid but went hard at the seamers in the death overs. Rutherford raised his fifty with a pick-up over deep square leg off Jamie Overton while Holder smashed Sam Curran for three sixes in the 17th over. A dropped return catch by Rashid when Rutherford was on 56 proved costly as the final five overs yielded 66 runs.

England began briskly, racing to 67 for one in the PowerPlay with Phil Salt taking the attack to Holder, tonking him for two sixes and three fours in the second over. But the innings unravelled in the middle overs.

Fine show: Rutherford lifted Windies while Motie's triple strikes pegged England back. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Chase had Jos Buttler hole out, and Motie then turned the screws – deceiving Tom Banton in flight, inducing a return catch from captain Harry Brook, and producing a quicker one to castle a set Jacob Bethell.

Though Curran fought a lone battle, England was bowled out for 166 in 19 overs.

The scores: West Indies 196/6 in 20 overs (Roston Chase 34, Sherfane Rutherford 76 n.o., Jason Holder 33, Adil Rashid 2/16, Jamie Overton 2/33) bt England 166 in 19 overs (Phil Salt 30, Jacob Bethell 33, Sam Curran 43 n.o., Gudakesh Motie 3/33, Chase 2/29).

Toss: England.

PoM: Rutherford.

Ellis the hero as Australia thumps Ireland

Sahil Mathur
COLOMBO

Nathan Ellis delivered a masterclass in pace-off bowling as Australia opened its T20 World Cup campaign with a commanding 67-run win over Ireland in their Group-B clash at the R. Premadasa Stadium on Wednesday.

Stirling injured

Ireland, chasing 183, suffered a blow off the very first ball when captain Paul Stirling pulled up while taking a single, walked off injured, and never returned.

Matthew Kuhnemann started the wicket-taking proceedings when Harry Tector was caught trying to loft over covers.

Ellis then took over. He began with a back-of-the-hand slower ball to castle Ross Adair and, two deliveries later, had Curtis Campher caught at short midwicket.

In the pacer's next over, Benjamin Calitz chopped on to another cutter as Ireland slipped to 27 for four. He returned later to finish with four for 12 as Ireland was bowled out for 115.

Beaten all ends up: Ellis' back-of-the-hand slower ball proved deadly for Adair. AP

Brief resistance

Lorcan Tucker (24, 27b, 1x4, 1x6) and George Dockrell (41, 29b, 3x4, 2x6) resisted briefly, adding 46 runs for the sixth wicket. The duo rotated the strike and also found the fence occasionally, but the fightback wasn't enough for Ireland to open its account.

Earlier, skipper Mitchell Marsh had been ruled out with a groin injury, leaving Travis Head to lead the Aussies.

Run out

Opting to bat, Head, despite an early reprieve, was run out after a mix-up with Josh Inglis. Inglis (37, 17b, 6x4, 1x6) counterpunched, smashing three fours off Matthew Humphreys, while Cameron Green provided impetus before holing out.

After the PowerPlay, Ireland's spinners pulled things back.

Inglis chipped to cover, and Glenn Maxwell was caught behind.

Matt Renshaw (37, 33b, 2x4) and Marcus Stoinis (45, 29b, 2x4, 1x6) rebuilt with a 61-run stand before falling in quick succession.

Australia added 62 in the last six overs to go past the 180-run mark as late blows from Xavier Bartlett and Cooper Connolly provided enough cushion for Ellis & Co. to seal a clinical victory.

The scores:
Australia 182/6 in 20 overs (Josh Inglis 37, Matt Renshaw 37, Marcus Stoinis 45) bt Ireland 115 in 16.5 overs (George Dockrell 41, Nathan Ellis 4/12, Adam Zampa 4/23).

Toss: Australia; **PoM:** Ellis.

An opportunity for Men in Blue to get their act together

The defending champion will want to deliver a thorough performance against Namibia ahead of the big clash with Pakistan; pace spearhead Bumrah all set to return while dashing opener Abhishek is unlikely to take the field

T20 WORLD CUP

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

On a chilly Thursday evening in the national capital, India's fixture against Namibia in Group A of the T20 World Cup is likely to provide an air of calm before the heat ramps up versus Pakistan in Colombo's humid climes. With due regard to the African unit, led by Gerhard Erasmus, it is difficult to envisage any result other than an India win at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

The precise margin may boil down to just how ruthless the defending champion intends to be.

Particularly after the game against the USA at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, where skipper Suryakumar Yadav's unbeaten 84 glossed over a shaky batting display, the co-hosts will want to deliver a thorough performance before taking the flight to Sri Lanka for the high-pitched battle of the neighbours.

While the surface in Mumbai wasn't exactly given to an exhibition of attacking strokeplay, recent history at this venue suggests that India's batters should relish the conditions.

Opener Abhishek Sharma, however, looks unlikely to be one among them.

The southpaw, who was dismissed for a first-ball duck against the USA and took no further part in that game, was hospitalised with a stomach bug after the team landed in Delhi.

Though he was discharged on Wednesday, his absence from training on consecutive days here indicates that he won't quite be right in time for the contest. With sterner challenges on the horizon, it is prudent for India to tread cautiously with the daredevil batter.

If Abhishek needs more time to recover, Sanju Samson may find a route back into the playing XI.

The 31-year-old was dropped for the T20 World Cup opener after subpar returns in the preceding series against New Zealand.

He and Ishan Kishan were the first batters to hit the nets on match eve. There was a minor scare when Kishan copped a blow on the toe while facing Jasprit Bumrah, but he did bat after that.

Bumrah's presence in the nets, of course, was a source of comfort for India. Having missed the duel against the USA due to illness, the pace spearhead operated at full tilt in training.

His availability may compel India to leave out Mohammed Siraj despite his three-wicket haul in Mumbai.

For Namibia's players, the opportunity to rub shoulders with the Men in Blue is rare.

The only meeting between the two sides came at the 2021 T20 World Cup, when India won by nine wickets.

Back to his best: Skipper Suryakumar will be eager to make the most of his good form. R.V. MOORTHY

Today's matches

Sri Lanka vs Oman	Nepal vs Italy	India vs Namibia
Pallekele, 11 a.m.	**Mumbai,** 3 p.m.	**Delhi,** 7 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
First Meeting	First Meeting	Played: 1 India 1 | Namibia 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

Gameplan: Tilak says he tries to take the contest deep, especially while chasing. R.V. MOORTHY

Ready to play anchor when required: Tilak

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

In a batting order bristling with flamboyant strokemakers, Tilak Varma is ready to rein himself in when needed. The 23-year-old has shown that ability already in his fledgling international career, most notably when he successfully steered India to a chase of 147 against Pakistan in the 2025 Asia Cup final with an unbeaten 69 off 53 deliveries.

"I believe the middle overs are very important and should be handled by a settled batter. I try to take the game deep, especially when we are chasing. We have a lot of power-hitters all the way down to No. 8, so someone needs to anchor the innings in the middle phase. I take that pressure on myself to be that batter. There are others who hit anyway. Every match is different – the wicket, the conditions and the bowlers. So, I focus on the present and react to the situation," Tilak said at a press conference on the eve of India's Group A joust against Namibia at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

India saw the downside of an ultra-aggressive approach when a host of batters succumbed to big shots against the USA in Mumbai. From 77 for six, Suryakumar Yadav's unbeaten 84 proved pivotal in setting up a 29-run win.

Trying to make sense of the early collapse, Tilak said: "When Abhishek (Sharma) got out, I went in and felt that the ball was coming nicely onto the bat. I thought the wicket was fine, but actually it wasn't. I was just in that flow. Unfortunately, it happens. After a few wickets fell, we realised we had assessed the pitch a bit late. But the way Suryakumar played was a masterclass. That's the strength of this team. We haven't lost a bilateral series (since the last T20 World Cup) because someone always takes responsibility".

'Don't know why we didn't get to train under lights'

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Namibia's opening game of this T20 World Cup against the Netherlands at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday was a morning affair. After going down by seven wickets, Namibia coach Craig Williams had said that his team had planned for a training session in the evening in preparation for the clash versus India under floodlights.

Afternoon slot

However, Namibia was given an afternoon slot for practice on Wednesday as India went through its drills in twilight on both days leading up to the contest.

Curiously, Canada, which will take on the UAE in a 3 p.m. start on Friday, got to train alongside India.

Namibia skipper Gerhard Erasmus wasn't too pleased about it.

"We haven't got floodlights at our grounds in Namibia. Infrastructure-wise, it is probably the challenge for us. Barring the guys who have played in the Nepal Premier League, ILT20 and the World Cups we have played, we don't train under lights very often. We haven't been given a training session at night before this game. I don't know why. I see that India has had two night training sessions. Make of that what you want. We will just rock up and do it the Namibian way, which is to fight," he said.

Huge honour for us to play at the Wankhede Stadium, says Madsen

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Italy captain Wayne Madsen, who suffered a shoulder injury during the team's opening fixture of the T20 World Cup against Scotland, will miss the game against Nepal at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.

While Madsen, who addressed the media on the eve of the game, was visibly upset about missing a crucial game, he made it clear that "to win in front of 35,000 people would be pretty special".

In his absence, Harry Manenti will lead the side, and hope to bring Italy's campaign back on track after the 73-run loss to Scotland.

The Italy players, taking the field at the iconic venue for the first time in their career, will hope to prove a point. "It's a huge honour for us to play at the Wankhede Stadium. What a famous stadium it is! The atmosphere is going to be pretty special," Madsen said. And having watched Nepal's previous game against England at the same venue, where thousands of Nepali fans turned up to cheer for their team, Madsen expects the same.

Additional responsibility: Harry Manenti will lead Italy in Madsen's absence. GETTY IMAGES

"We know a lot of Nepali fans are going to be supporting their team. And that's something that we have to deal with. And a lot of us do have experience of dealing with big crowds," Madsen said, adding: "The noise at the Wankhede, looking at the England game was pretty unreal. And we've got to embrace that. And that's going to be the message to the guys..."

For Nepal, it will be about learning from the mistakes. The team fell agonisingly short of stunning England, and captain Rohit Paudel believes that 'handling pressure and executing the plan in crunch times will be the key going forward'.

As the competition intensifies, both teams have a lot to play for.

Sri Lanka needs to address middle-order woes

Press Trust of India
PALLEKELE

Sri Lanka will have to iron out its batting inconsistencies, particularly in the middle overs, and rework the bowling combination in the absence of an injured Wanindu Hasaranga when it takes on Oman in a Group B match of the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

The co-host, which entered the tournament on the back of a 0-3 drubbing by England at home, made a positive start to the campaign with a 20-run win over a tricky Ireland.

The victory, though, could not mask the batters' struggle against spin.

The 2014 champion failed to hit a single boundary between the seventh and 15th overs after Ireland introduced spin, an area Oman will look to exploit.

Things could have turned messy but for Kamindu Mendis, who smashed a 19-ball 44 in the death overs to lift Sri Lanka to a competitive total.

Kusal Mendis capitalised on reprieves to anchor the innings with a half-century.

The team will, however, expect more from openers Pathum Nissanka and Kamil Mishara, who failed to convert their starts.

In Hasaranga's absence, Dushan Hemantha, who has played just five ODIs and three T20Is, will have big shoes to fill after being named as replacement. Fellow-spinner Maheesh Theekshana, who also claimed three wickets in the opener, will have to shoulder added responsibility.

Oman, on the other hand, was well short of runs against Zimbabwe, slumping to an eight-wicket defeat.

Oman struggled against pace and extra bounce, with the top five batters failing to reach double digits.

It will need to quickly address those frailties if it is to spring a surprise like it did on debut in 2016, when it defeated Ireland.

Erratic India goes down to Belgium, begins campaign on a disappointing note

PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

India paid the price for its poor attacking display and erratic passing as it began with a 1-3 loss to Belgium in the FIH Pro League 2025-26 at the Birsa Munda Stadium here on Wednesday.

In front of a packed house, the Indians found it difficult to get past a stubborn Belgian defence. With India having just four home matches this year, Wednesday's outing was crucial to find the right momentum, but the host was guilty of being casual on the field. After an evenly-matched first quarter that saw both teams earning a penalty corner each, Thomas Crols latched on to a Harmanpreet Singh mispass in the 23rd minute. Crols ran past an almost absent defence to put Nelson Onana through and the latter slammed the ball home. A PC in the 29th minute saw Amit Rohidas' hit stopped by Guillaume Hellin's stick. But the Belgian couldn't control the ball and Shilanand Lakra swooped in for a quick rebound to level the score. It raised hopes of a fightback but the change of ends did not end India's poor presence in the middle.

False start: India came up with a below-par performance. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The Indian forwards were unable to connect inside the circle and kept shooting wide.

In the other half of the field, Crols got one for himself in the 53rd minute; he stepped just inside the circle and, with all the room in the world, delivered a reverse hit. Forced to go all out in search of the equaliser, India eventually let in a third, Arno Van Dessel sealing the win three minutes from time.

India avoided a bigger defeat courtesy the hard-working defence marshalled by Rohidas and some impressive saves by goalkeeper Pawan Malik.

The result: Belgium 3 (Nelson Onana 23, Thomas Crols 53, Arno Van Dessel 57) bt India 1 (Shilanand Lakra 29-pc).

Shruti... mission accomplished. R. RAVINDRAN

Neha, Shruti in main draw

WTT CONTENDER

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Neha Kumari, who produced the biggest upset in the women's WTT Star Contender qualifiers by knocking out top seed Syndrela Das in the second round, sealed her place in the main draw with a 5-11, 13-11, 11-5, 11-7 victory over Naisha Rewaskar in the final round on Wednesday.

Al the seeded (top 16) players have been handed byes in the opening round of the singles events.

The qualifiers: Men: Ankur Bhattacharjee, Punit Biswas, Yashansh Malik, Sanil Shetty, Carlo Rossi (Italy), Jash Modi, Mudit Dani, Preyesh Suresh Raj. **Women:** Neha Kumari, Amrutha Pushpak, Nithya Mani, Tanishka Kalbhairav, Suhana Saini, Shruti Amrute, Sachi Aoka (Japan), S. Yashini.

Coton, Poret hope to continue their rise on the world stage

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

France has a tradition of producing world-class men's singles table tennis players. Among the major stars are Jean-Philippe Gatien, the Olympic silver and World Championship gold medalist, while Emmanuel Lebesson and Simon Gauzy have been European champions.

Today, the spotlight is on the Lebrun brothers – Felix (World No. 6) and Alexis (No. 14) – who are rapidly establishing themselves among the world's elite. Backed by a strong domestic table tennis culture, France continues to nurture emerging talent. And the latest additions to this formidable line-up are Flavien Coton (No. 32) and the 21-year-old Thibault Poret (No. 35).

Last year proved to be a breakthrough for both Coton and Poret as they recorded career-best performances with the city of Chennai playing a pivotal role.

At the WTT Star Contender last March, Coton reached the semifinals, while Poret advanced all the way to the title clash, eventually losing to South Korea's Oh Junsung.

Coton and Poret are yet to make a deep run this year, and both are banking on the WTT Star Contender, set to begin at the Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University here on Thursday.

Coton fondly recalls his 2025 campaign.

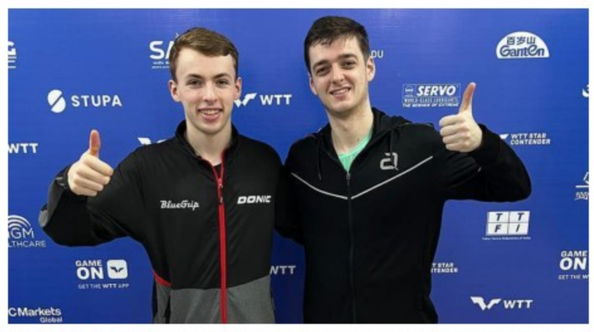
"It was an amazing year. I started with a world ranking of 109 and finished inside the top-30," said the 17-year-old, who also became the first Frenchman to win the European u-21 Championships the same year.

"Winning against three top-32 players – Alvaro Robles, Sora Matsushima, and Jonathan Groth – gave me confidence."

For Poret, Chennai holds special memories. "I came here with so much ambition and I reached the final. This year, I hope to win the title," he said.

Both were part of the French team that won gold at the 2025 European Championships and could make their debut at the World Team Championships in London during April and May.

"We hope to be selected for the Worlds," said Coton and Poret and they hope Chennai sets the tone for their continued rise on the world stage.



Future stars: Coton, left, and Poret are keen to make it to France's World Team Championships squad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

INBRIEF

Tottenham sacks head coach Thomas Frank

Tottenham Hotspur has sacked head coach Thomas Frank, the Premier League club announced on Wednesday. Frank's dismissal came following Tuesday's 2-1 defeat at home to Newcastle that left Spurs 16th in the Premier League and five points above the relegation zone.

Teen Bedabrat stuns Ajaya, takes home 79kg gold

Bedabrat Bharali beat V. Ajaya Babu (327kg), who set a new snatch record (152kg), by two kg to take the men's 79kg crown at the National weightlifting in Modinagar on Wednesday.

The results (winners only): Men: Elite and Junior: Bedabrat Bharali (Asm) snatch 148kg, clean and jerk 181kg, total 329kg; **Youth:** Sahil Hadhav (Mah) 122kg, 151kg, 273kg; **Women: Elite: 69kg:** Harjinder Kaur 100kg, 122kg, 222kg; **Junior:** Tamanna (Har) 96kg, 110kg, 206kg; **Youth:** Ratika Chinchwaaday (Mah) 83kg, 96kg, 179kg; **77kg: Elite:** Heena (RSPB) 92kg, 126kg, 218kg; **Junior:** Sanjana 94kg, 122kg, 216kg; **Youth:** Hasina Shirin (TN) 82kg, 97kg, 179kg.

Djokovic pulls out of next week's Doha 500 tournament

Novak Djokovic has pulled out of next week's ATP 500 Doha Open event due to "strong fatigue", organisers announced on Wednesday on Instagram. Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner will be the top two seeds. Both will be playing in their first tournament since the year's opening Grand Slam in Melbourne.

De Zerbi leaves Marseille 'by mutual agreement'

Coach Roberto De Zerbi has left Marseille "by mutual agreement", the French club said early Wednesday, days after it was thrashed 5-0 by bitter rival Paris Saint-Germain.

West Ham ends Manchester United's winning run with a 1-1 stalemate

Chelsea blows a two-goal lead to drop points in draw with Leeds; Tottenham sinks to 16th after damaging defeat to Newcastle

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Benjamin Sesko salvaged a 1-1 draw for Manchester United at West Ham as Michael Carrick's perfect start came to an end on Tuesday, while Tottenham lost 2-1 to Newcastle and dropped to 16th in the table.

The Hammers kept one United fan who has vowed not to cut his hair until the Red Devils win five consecutive games waiting as they boosted their chances of survival despite the set-back of Sesko's stoppage time strike. Nuno Espirito Santo's men disrupted the attacking flow that Carrick's side had shown in putting Arsenal, Manchester City and Tottenham to the sword in recent weeks.

Tomas Soucek converted Jarrod Bowen's cross early in the second half to give the home side the lead.

But West Ham were denied a priceless win at the death when Sesko brilliantly flicked in Bryan Mbeumo's cross. "We were definitely not at our best," said Carrick. "We didn't have that sharpness to find the answers. and we will take the point and move on."

United remains in fourth after fifth-placed Chelsea blew a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2 at home to Leeds. Spurs are now just five points above the relegation zone in 16th.

Everton's hopes of European football for the first time since 2017 were dealt a bodyblow after Bournemouth came from behind to win 2-1.

The results: Chelsea 2 (Pedro 24, Palmer 58-pen) drew with Leeds 2 (Nmecha 67-pen, Okafor 73).

Everton 1 (Ndiaye 42-pen) lost to Bournemouth 2 (Rayan 61, Adli 64); Tottenham 1 (Gray 64) lost to Newcastle 2 (Thiaw 45+5, Ramsey 68); West Ham 1 (Soucek 50) drew with Manchester United 1 (Sesko 90+6).

The equaliser: Sesko, left, salvages a draw for United against West Ham with this strike. AFP

Xilas packs off top seed Clarke; Sasikumar goes down fighting

CHENNAI OPEN

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Top seed Jay Clarke started strongly over an opponent ranked some 200 spots below him in the world rankings only to fritter away the advantage and crash out in the first round of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger at the SDAT tennis stadium here on Wednesday.

Clarke, the World No. 183, broke Greece's Ioannis Xilas early in the first set to seize a 3-0 lead. However, the 24-year-old Xilas (ranked 388) fought back well, winning the key points. Also, Clarke's below-par serving (he landed only 59% of his first serves) didn't help his cause as he lost 4-6, 4-6.

In second-round singles action, India's Sasikumar Mukund went down fighting to Denis Yevseyev of Kazakhstan 6-3, 2-6, 3-6. Yevseyev was joined in the last-eight by second seed Federico Agustin Gomez of Argentina, who got past Italian Lorenzo Carboni 6-3, 6-4.

Giant-killer: Xilas rallied to stun Clarke. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The results: Singles (second round): Federico Agustin Gomez (Arg) bt Lorenzo Carboni (Ita) 6-3, 6-4; Denis Yevseyev (Kaz) bt Sasikumar Mukund 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

First round: Ioannis Xilas (Gre) bt Jay Clarke (GBr) 6-4, 6-4; Maks Kasnikowski (Pol) bt Aryan Lakshmanan 7-5, 6-2.

Doubles (first round): Pruchya Isaro (Tha) & Niki Poonacha bt Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta & Digvijaypratap Singh 6-4, 6-2.

Siddhant Banthia & Saketh Myneni bt Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) & Denis Yevseyev (Kaz) 2-6, 6-1, [10-2]; Lohithaksha Bathrinath & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam bt Manas Dhamne & Atharva Sharma 6-3, 2-6, [10-8]; Felix Gill & Alastair Gray (GBr) bt Francis Casey Alcantara (Phi) & Adil Kalyanpur 6-2, 7-6(5); Ishaque Eqbal & Manish Sureshkumar bt Carl Holder (GBr) & Raghav Jaisinghani 3-6, 6-1, [10-3].

Myneni may be old, but the competitive spirit still burns bright

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Hope springs eternal, so to say. The same goes for Saketh Myneni, who is keen to work his way back in, albeit slowly, and aims to compete in the Grand Slams again.

"I love to compete. I love to play and tennis has always been part of it. And I want to compete and I want to do the best, even though like I'm getting older," Myneni told *The Hindu*, underlining his desire to keep playing at the highest level.

Though Myneni is not looking too far ahead, the 38-year-old said he wants to make sure he is physically good to go.

"I mean, I want to compete but have to see how my mind and body go. And I want to do my best," Myneni, who is in the city to take part in the Chennai Open ATP Challenger, said.

Myneni. C. SHYAM SUNDAR

> I didn't play more than four or five tournaments the whole year (2025). So, I want to make sure I get better now

Myneni, currently ranked 344 in doubles and paired with compatriot Siddhant Banthia here, said he does not have any plans for the rest of the year as far as a partner goes.

He had in the recent past teamed up with Ramkumar Ramanathan and had a fair degree of success. He, however, felt playing with different partners wasn't easy.

Asked what keeps him going despite the injury-related issues that reduced his playing time on the Tour, Myneni said, "It is the passion for the sport."

"I didn't play more than four or five tournaments the whole year (2025). So, I want to make sure I get better now. Like hopefully there are no injuries and I stay healthy."

While he is done with singles, he is still game to have a go in doubles.

Stokes. INSTAGRAM@BEN STOKES

Stokes has surgery after being struck in the face by cricket ball

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

England Test captain Ben Stokes says that he has undergone successful surgery after being struck in the face by a cricket ball.

The 34-year-old all-rounder posted a picture on *Instagram* last week showing his eye heavily swollen and bruised, a graze on his cheek and lip, and a bandage stuffed in his nose.

"You should see the state of the cricket ball," read the caption, alongside a laughing face emoji.

On Tuesday he posted again from hospital with a photo of his swollen face and the caption: "May not look like it but the surgery was a success."

Bhanwala wins bronze in 25m rapid-fire pistol

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anish Bhanwala clinched bronze in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol event of the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here on Wednesday. It is his third Asian Championship medal.

Kazakhstan dominated day eight of the competition, picking up four gold medals.

Meanwhile, Adriyan Karmakar won a gold medal in the 50m rifle prone junior men's event as table-topper India took its medal tally to 41 gold, 19 silver and 15 bronze.

Sharp-shooter: Bhanwala on the podium after claiming a bronze. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bhanwala and Adarsh Singh took the seventh and eighth qualifying spots with scores of 574 and 573 respectively, ensuring the presence of two Indians in the rapid-fire pistol finals. Former champion Nikita Chiryukin of Kazakhstan topped the qualifiers with a 582.

Japan's Dai Yoshioka, a two-time Olympian, and Ha Minh Thanh, a double Asian Games medallist, also went through along with Vu Tien Nam.

In the finals consisting of eight series of five rapid-fire shots, Yoshioka, Bhanwala and Chiryukin were fastest off the blocks as Vu and Kazakh Artemiy Kabakov became the first two to be eliminated after the third series.

As Adarsh bowed out after the fourth series with 11 hits to his name, Bhanwala found himself in joint lead with Yoshioka and Chiryukin after the sixth series with 21 hits.

However, he got two hits in the seventh to finish with bronze, the same result he had three years ago at the Changwon Asian Championship.

Yoshioka won gold with a record score of 31 while Chiryukin took silver with 28 hits.

Testing begins in Bahrain with new tech and new rules

Getting ready to defend: Title-holder Norris of Maclaren during the pre-season testing. REUTERS

FORMULA ONE

Associated Press
SAKHIR

Formula 1 testing began in Bahrain on Wednesday as preparations for the new season gather pace.

Teams will be given around eight hours of track time as drivers get to grips with the cars they'll be racing during the 2026 campaign with changes to technology and rules.

The reliability of the cars will be put to the test over a total of six days on the track over the next two weeks, with the first race of the season taking place in Australia next month.

These tests could be crucial, given the sweeping changes to cars this year making them shorter, narrower and lighter. It's all to do with aerodynamics, with narrower tires and changes to wings and floors of the cars.

There is an "overtake" button, which can be used when cars are within one second of the vehicle in front. F1 says it gives drivers "access to extra electrical energy."

The maximum power button has been renamed the "Boost" button.

Engines are now about a 50-50 split between petrol and electric, which F1 says makes them "more road relevant". McLaren driver Lando Norris won his first Formula 1 title last season.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen posted the best time of the morning session with 1m 35.433s.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Karnataka downs Madhya Pradesh

Karnataka defeated Madhya Pradesh by a convincing seven-wicket margin in the BCCI Senior Women's One Day Trophy match in Rajkot.

The scores: Madhya Pradesh 84 in 29.2 overs lost to Karnataka 86/3 in 16.1 overs.

Karnataka on top against Andhra

Karnataka bowled Andhra out for 230 and reached 130 for one at stumps on day one of the under-14 Boys South Zone tournament game in Vizianagaram on Wednesday.

The scores: Andhra 230 in 66.1 overs (Raj 46, P.V.S.R. Varma 62) vs. Karnataka 130/1 in 21 overs (Pavandeep R. Bharadakane 76, Samarth Suresh 40).

Sahaja, Shrivalli get wildcards

India's top-ranked female tennis player Sahaja Yamalapalli (No. 428), Shrivalli Bhamidipaty (569), Vaishnavi Adkar (No. 693) and promising junior Maaya Rajeshwaran have been awarded wildcards into the singles main draw of the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100.

The tournament will be held at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru from February 15 to 22.

Deepak stars for YMCA (3)

N.J. Deepak scalped five wickets (5/23) as YMCA (3) beat Yuvaka Sangha by six wickets in the KSCA (Group I) fifth division tournament.

The scores: Yuvaka Sangha 121 in 35.3 overs (Ashrith S. Reddy 56 n.o., N.J. Deepak 5/23) lost to YMCA (3) 122/4 in 22.2 overs (R. Shivaraj 49).

Karnataka Youth CA, Malur 104 in 35.3 overs (M.J. Sagar 41, K.C. Cariappa 5/26) lost to Caravan Cricketers 105/4 in 16.4 overs (Navneeth V. Raj 52).

Johnson 159 in 46.4 overs (C. Arun Kumar 4/21) bt Garfield Cricketers 140 in 30.5 overs (Nikhil 40).

Dooravani Cricketers (2) 163 in 43.1 overs lost to Mathikere 166/8 in 40.1 overs (M.S. Bhandage 44).

Narrow win for Technico

Technico FF edged out Sree Gajanana FC 2-1 in the BDFA A-division league championship here on Wednesday.

Other results: A-div: Roots FS bt FC Deccan 1-0; **B-div:** Juno FC bt YBEFC 4-0; Empire FC bt Vehicles FC 4-0.

LIVE TELECAST

Table tennis: WTT Star Contender, WTT Global YouTube channel, 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 11 a.m. 3 & India vs Namibia, 7 p.m.

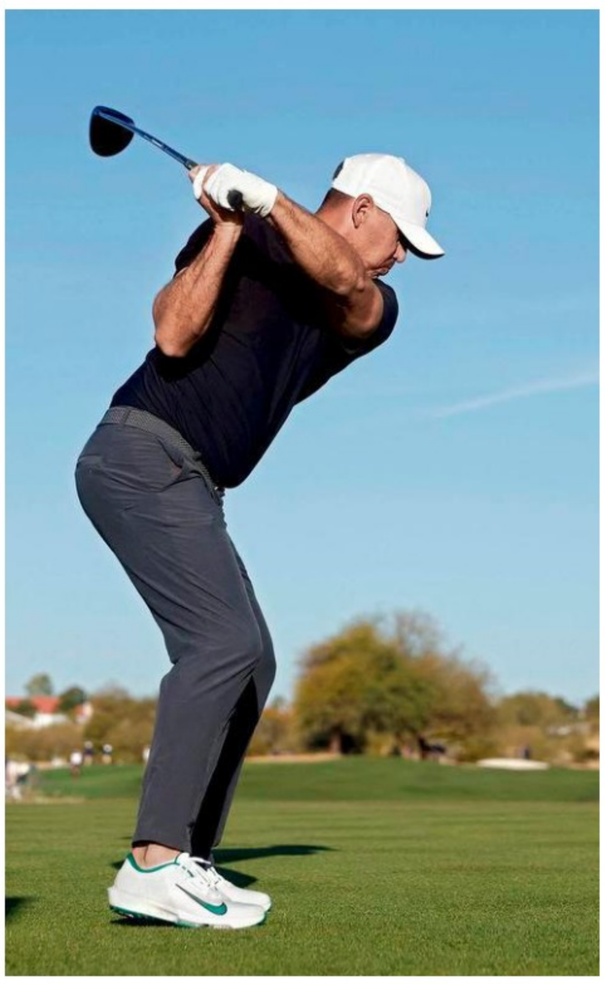
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Koepka and Reed's return a boost for PGA Tour: McIlroy

The World No. 2, who went from being a harsh critic to looking for some reconciliation with LIV Golf, says he cares about the Tour putting together its best product; he also admits that the PGA authorities have been forced to think differently

GOLF

Associated Press
PEBBLE BEACH



Change in the air: Koepka and Reed will be back in the swing on the PGA Tour. AFP

Rory McIlroy believes the pendulum has swung more in the PGA Tour's favour with the return of Brooks Koepka from LIV Golf and Patrick Reed leaving the Saudi-funded league and being virtually assured a Tour card for next year.

"I'm all for anything that makes the PGA Tour stronger and those two coming back makes the PGA Tour stronger," McIlroy said on Tuesday at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-am, his first competition on American soil since Europe won the Ryder Cup last September before hostile New York fans.

McIlroy, who went from being one of the harshest critics of LIV Golf to wanting to see some form of reconciliation, said he mainly cares about the PGA Tour putting together its best product.

He has spoken about LIV players getting to the end of their original contracts, which included big signing bonuses, and the uncertainty whether they get a similar payoff or at least one that satisfies them. Reed could not come to an agreement with LIV when he decided to leave.

Meanwhile, the PGA Tour has started a player equity programme and is working toward a revamped scheduled geared toward a series of big events.

"I think everything that's happened over the last few years, it forced the Tour to think about things differently – create these signature events, but then rethink the entire schedule and what's going to happen '27 and beyond," McIlroy said.

"I think the guys over there are maybe seeing that and it might entice them a little bit more."

While he wants a stronger tour, he wasn't buying the PGA Tour's subtle renewal of the dialogue on whether The Players' Championship is a Major.

McIlroy has won it twice, most recently a playoff over US Open champion J.J. Spaun last year. The PGA Tour released a promotion last week that ended with, "March is going to be Major."

The Players' Championship returned to its March date in 2019.

"I think The Players is one of the best golf tournaments in the world. I don't think anyone disputes that or argues that," McIlroy said.

"But I'm a traditionalist, I'm a historian of the game. We have four Major championships. If you want to see what five Major championships look like, look at the women's game. I don't know how well that went for them."

Nazrul U-turn: players, BCB decided to skip T20 WC

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Bangladesh's sports advisor Asif Nazrul did a U-turn, saying that the decision to skip its T20 World Cup matches in India was taken by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and players to "protect national dignity".

Nazrul, who took centre-stage during the failed negotiations with the International Cricket Council (ICC), had insisted that the refusal to play in India was driven by his government's security concerns. "There is no question of regret (of not playing the T20 WC). This decision was taken by the BCB and players as they made sacrifices for the safety of the country's cricket, the safety of the people and to protect national dignity," Nazrul was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz .

Last month, Nazrul, after talks with the BCB and players, had taken a hardline position. "I think we did not get justice from the ICC. Whether we will play in the World Cup or not is entirely a government decision," Nazrul had asserted on January 22.

In the aftermath of Bangladesh's ouster, Pakistan had announced a boycott of the group game against India, to show solidarity with it. However, that impasse was resolved after negotiations that also involved the BCB. "The ICC said that there will be no sanctions and that Bangladesh will be considered for hosting an international tournament," Nazrul said.

Brutally honest: Slot said Liverpool's season won't be acceptable if it fails to secure a spot in the Champions League. REUTERS

Liverpool needs to be 'close to perfection' to seal CL berth: Slot

Associated Press
LIVERPOOL

Liverpool's season has been far from perfect. Now, coach Arne Slot says the remainder of the campaign will have to be near-faultless if the defending Premier League champion is to secure Champions League qualification.

It says everything about Liverpool's ever-worsening title defence that Slot is focusing on a top-four finish this late into the season.

But Sunday's dramatic 1-2 loss to Manchester City was the Merseysiders' eighth defeat in the league this season and left them 17 points adrift of first-placed Arsenal.

Liverpool is still in the Champions League and the FA Cup, so there is a lot yet to play for. But in the Premier League, at least, Slot, who won the title in his debut season last year, has had to lower his sights.

Slot said his team had to be "close to perfection" to secure a place in next season's Champions League. The top four places qualify for European club football's elite competition. England is likely to receive a fifth spot because of the performances of English teams in Europe this season.

"So to close the gap of four or five points towards the number three, four or five, that means you have to win a lot," Slot said on Tuesday.

"And that's not what we've done this season a lot, so that's why that has to be better, and we have to come close to perfection.

"If we don't have Champions League football, it has definitely not been an acceptable season."

Liverpool has won one of its last seven Premier League games and Slot said it was the most challenging season he has had as a coach.

"The players are not used to losing a lot or having a lot of draws. I'm not used to that as well," he said. "It's always more of a challenge after you lose a game of football to get them going again than after a win (and) telling them we were not as good as they might think they were".

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) BSCC, Fourth Floor, Jayanagar Commercial Complex, 30th Cross Road, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 4th Block, Bengaluru - 11
No:EE(QA/QC)/Z-2/BSCC/TEND/02/Call-2/2025-26 Date:10-02-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-2) (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Bangalore South City Corporation (BSCC) Quality Assurance/Quality Control division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below work through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer (QA/QC),BSCC on behalf of the Commissioner, BSCC, Bengaluru.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Additional works to Badminton Court at Tavarekere Park and Samudaya bhavana / Communitty Hall Adjacent to Indira Canteen SG Palya and Comprehensive Development and Improvements of Tavarekere Park, Kuvempu Park, 16th Main Road Parks and Play ground, Indira Gandhi Park by Providing Pathway, Ornamental grill Gym and Children Equipments, Electrical lightings, Watchman Qtrs and other Improvements to Parks and Play Grounds in BTM Layout Constituency (Package No. 01(Call-2) **Project Cost: ₹. 1100.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 41,250/-**
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Additional works to NGV Auditorium, Tensile roofing to Skating ground and Comprehensive. Development of Parks Play Ground at NGV Premises at Ganesha Temple road, Rangavendra School Opposite Park, Beautyspot Park Jakkasandra and Adugodi Blocks and Surrounding Parks and Playground Improvements in BTM Layout Constituency (Package No. 02) (Call-2) **Project Cost: ₹. 1000.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 37,500/-**
3	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for Construction of ESI Hospitals, BBMP Office Building at Koramangala 5th Block, Ambedkar Samudhaya Bhavana and Additional Improvements to Samudhaya Bhavana and Improvements to Roads, drains, Footpath and over all developments at ward No. 177, 178,179, 180 and surrounding works in BTM Layout Constituency (Package No. 03).(Call-2) **Project Cost: ₹. 1300.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 48,750/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Document may be downloaded Through KPP portal from **12-02-2026** (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **17-02-2026** at **11:30** am (3) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders is **20-02-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid is **21-02-2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (QA/QC), Zone-2
Bengaluru South City Corporation

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-281(87)/25-26/5428-29 Date: 09.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry **no. KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/ Circle(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/25-26/EPR-16/Call-4 Dated 31.10.2025** for the work of Increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV Overhead EHT line crossings at Railway km No. 03/800-900 Double circuit between Channasandra (CSDR) - Yelahanka (YNK) Railway station in Hoody Division, Bengaluru under DCW basis **(on TTK on Percentage basis)** in the Tr(Op), South-Circle, Bengaluru.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **12.02.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Elecl.),
Transmission (Operation) Circle-South, KPTCL,
Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYAT BELAGAVI
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHIKODI
Email :preckdee@gmail.com Office Phone No: 08338-272131,

No.PRE/CKD/Db/kppp/2025-26/7870 Date: 07-02-2026

Kppp-SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, State, Item Rate (Technical bids and Financial bids through E-Mode), E-Bids are invited for the following works through standard tender document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3, KW-4 (Standard Tender Document) from the eligible Contractors, registered in P.R.E. Department, & with kppp registration Bangalore, on "turn-key", basis only.

1]Last date of request for issue of blank E-bid document through e-Procurment Date: Other works:07-02-2026 To 19-02-2026, 2]Bid Closing & submission Date: Other works:19-02-2026 AT 04:00 PM, 3]Tender Opening Date: Other works: 21-02-2026 AT 11:00 AM, 4]Pre Bid Meeting Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only]:18-02-2026 AT 05:00 PM, 5]Techanical Bid Opening Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only]:21-02-2026 AT 11:00 AM, 6]Financial Bid Opening Date: [KW-3 & 4 Works Only]:23-02-2026 AT 11:00 AM.

General Works Indent No's:23294, 23700, 23703, 23710, 23686, 23691, 23538, 23536, 23530, 23550, 23604, 23783, 23769, 23775, 23780, 22955, 23548, 23705, 23708, 23695, 23694, 23715, 23714, 23776, 23697, 23698, 23699, 23533, SC Works Indent No's:23617, 23688, 23646, 23692, 23781, 23771, 23777, 23707, 23716, ST Works Indent No's:23689, 23602, 23702, Category 1 Works Indent No's:23617, 23639, Category 2A Works Indent No's:23711, 22986, 23770, 23773, 23605, 22957, 23636, 23704, 23539,

For further details, the agencies may contact the office of the undersigned, during office hours, or may visit web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/-Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1819/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PRINTING, STATIONERY AND PUBLICATIONS
Government Central Press, 8th Mile, Mysore Road,
R.V. College Post, Bengaluru -560 059. **Ph :** 080 28484515 / 28484518

No. DPS/PURB/TDRC/6/2025-PUR/S.S.Maplitho Date: 09.02.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)

Online Tenders are invited for the Supply of S.S Maplitho Printing Paper Under rate contract. Estimated total value of the Tender is about **Rs. 94.17 lakhs** & total EMD prescribed is **Rs. 4.80 Lakhs.** Last date for Submission of Tender on **02-03-2026, 17.30 hrs.** For details please visit Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For any further clarifications the above office may be contacted.

Sd/-
Director (I/c)

DIPR/CP/5578/Zen/2025-26

SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SALEM-636001
Roc.No.E3/12006/2021 Date: 11.02.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Commissioner, Salem City Muncipal Corporation invites Tender from the eligible applicants for the **"Appointment of Independent Engineer cum Project Management Consultant for 24x7 Water Supply Project at Salem City Municipal Corporation"** in accordance with the provisions of the RFP document

Sl.No.	Name of work	Implementation Period
1	**Appointment of Independent Engineer cum Project Management Consultant for 24 x 7 Water Supply Project at Salem City Municipal Corporation**	**6 years (1 Year Study Period + 4 Years Construction Period + 1 Year O&M Period)**

The RFP document will be available at website **https://tntenders.gov.in** and can be downloaded free of cost.

1. Last date of submission of Bids - **02.03.2026 at 15.00 hours** through e-procurement portal - **https://tntenders.gov.in**

Implementing Agency and address for Communications:
The Commissioner, Salem City Municipal Corporation, Salem - 636001
Tel: +91-0427-2213993 // Email: commr.salem@tn.gov.in

PRO/007/SALEM/2026

COMMISSIONER,
SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned State Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Platform)

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited invites tender through kpp Portal against Indent No: BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0203 **for Supply of 2000KL New Insulating oil-Uninhibited (U) Type- II Transformer oil.**

Bid Documents available from: **12.02.2026.** Last date for submission of Bids: **13.03.2026, 17:15 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document: **16.03.2026, 11:00 Hrs.**

The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP help desk contact numbers **91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/-, Chief General Manager (Ele.,),
Procurement, BESCOM,
Bangalore-01.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga
Office of the District Health and Family Welfare, Chitradurga.
ದೂ: ಸಂ: 08194–235464 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dhochitradurga@gmail.com

Ref. No: DHFW/CTA/OUTSOURCE/TENDER/05/2025-26
DATE: 10-02-2026

E-TENDER ADVERTISEMENT

E- Tender is called for 271Group-D vacant posts at District health and family welfare office of chitradurga provide service under various institutions Taluk General hospitals/11 community health Centre's /primary health Centre's,for the year of 2026-27.

Tender documents should be uploaded in kppp portal from the Date:10-02-2026 to Date:11-03-2026 timings within 5-00 pm, and Technical bid will be opened on Date:13-03-2026at 11-00 am, terms and conditions of tender can obtained in website http://.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

For further details contact the office ofDistrict health and family welfare office,chitradurga during office hours.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 664/2025-26

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Chitradurga.

BAGALKOT TOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BAGALKOT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
Bagalkote Town Development Authority, Division No. : 02,
Bagalkote - 587 102, Ph. : 08354-297054, E-mail : eebtda2@gmail.com

No. : E.E./B.T.D.A./Dn.02/PB-01/Tender No.: 09/2025-26/3310
Date : 09-02-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 09
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

As per the tender procedure of KTPP Act, tenders are invited for pertaining to **Indent No. : 48, 90, 94 & 69** from registered eligible contractors Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

The Intending Bidders for Work Details may login to Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed notification and Submission of the Tender. The Tenders can be Submitted till : 02-03-2026 upto 5.00 p.m., Technical Bids will be Opened on : 04-03-2026 at 11.00 a.m. (if possible) and Financial Bids will be Opened on : 05-03-2026 at 11.00 a.m. (if possible).

Note : Please note henceforth, any changes in calendar of events Corrigendum / Addendum will be published in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only and will not published in Newspaper.

Any other details can be Obtained from this Office in Person or over Telephone Number : 08354-297054.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
BTDA, Division. No. 02, Bagalkote.

DIPR/Bagalkote/581/Manipal/2025-26

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru–560011

No.: EE/TE&M Cell/BSCC/TEND/03/2025-26 Date: 11.02.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP Portal only)
(Short Term Tender Notification)

The Executive Engineer Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell (BSCC) invites proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing consultant for preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report for the Service detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Descripation of Service
1	Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report for the work construction of Foot Over Bridge at 18 locations in Bengaluru South City Corporation Limits under PPP model on DBFOT Basis. **EMD (in Rs.): 50,000.00**

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of tender document in KPPP portal: **13.02.2026. (2)** Date and time of pre-bid meeting: **18.02.2026** at **3:00 p.m. (3)** Last date & time for Queries (only through online): **18.02.2026** at **4:00 p.m. (4)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **23.02.2026** at **4:30 p.m. (5)** Opening of Technical bid: **24.02.2026** at **4:40 p.m. (6)** Opening of Financial bid (if possible): **After the approval of Technical Elevation.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, Bengaluru South City Corporation